Cannock & Rugeley
CHRONICLE
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SAFETY WORK ON DANGER ROADS

BY PIPPA ARMSTRONG

Councillor Bryan Jones

ACTION is being taken to tackle two 'dangerous' roads in the Cannock Chase district. Safety work has been carried out at the junction of Broadhurst Green and Camp Road.

It comes after more than a dozen injury accidents at the crossroads between 2014 and 2016 and many damage-only collisions. Meanwhile, dozens of extra parking spaces are to be created at 5's pavilion and sports ground in Hednesford after visitors were forced to leave their cars on pavements, sparking concern among those living nearby.

Two splitter islands have been introduced on the Broadhurst Green and Camp Road approaches to the blackspot crossroads, between the German Military Cemetery and Pye Green BT tower. In addition, there is a 40mph limit on all four approaches to the crossroads, improved signage, and vegetation cut back to ensure maximum visibility.

A review by Staffordshire County Council's casualty investigation team for the three-year period 2014-16 revealed nine personal injury collisions during that time with a further five identified by Staffordshire Police for 2017.

The changes are backed by Hednesford and Rawnsley councillors Bryan Jones and Phil Hewitt who were consulted by the county council and met with road safety manager Richard Rea.

Neighbours

Councillor Jones said: "Cannock Chase is a wonderful place to visit but we must ensure access to it and our road network is fit for purpose.

"We attract numerous visitors who may be unfamiliar with this location so I'm delighted to see these improvements."

Councillor Hewitt said: "We both agreed there was a pressing need for such action and we totally support the proposals."

The promise of extra parking at 5's in Bradbury Lane followed a public meeting organised by Councillor Jones and attended by police,councillors and neighbours.

As revealed two weeks ago in The Chronicle, locals complained that cars had often been parking on the footpath or close to junctions since the centre opened last March with 30 parking spaces.

At the meeting, held at the Pye Green Community Centre, council chiefs agreed to increase the number of parking spaces by up to 70.

Cannock Chase Council leader George Adamson said: "It was a positive meeting with a lot of residents in attendance. Council bosses said the possibility of double yellow lines on the road would also be investigated.

Another meeting will be held at the same location on April 19.

Extra spaces at civic centre to relieve hospital parking chaos

HOSPITAL patients will be able to park on Cannock's civic centre car park by next year as part of plans to stop surrounding roads being clogged by parked cars.

The civic centre car park will be expanded and two derelict bungalows demolished to create space for people using Cannock Hospital.

Council bosses said they were committed to pressing ahead with the scheme despite a lack of support from the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, which runs the hospital.

The car park is expected to have 132 public spaces and 144 spaces for council staff. Currently there are 200 spaces at the car park.

Rates would be in line with other council car parks rather than the hospital, Cannock Chase Council leader George Adamson said. Planning permission for the scheme has been granted, and Councillor Adamson said he expected the car park to be up and running within 12 to 18 months and work to begin within 'the next few months'.

Roads around the hospital are regularly filled with parked cars.

Councillor Adamson said: "We are still going ahead with it, and it will continue to be run by the council. The two bungalows have got to come down, they have been empty for years. The Royal Wolverhampton Trust had been quite keen to get involved with it but have gone very quiet on it. The hospital is being used more and more."

FIRST TIME LOKI FOR LYNN

A dog owner from Cannock struck beginner's luck as her four-legged friend took home one of the top prizes at Crufts 2018. Lynn Pallatina's Swedish Vallhund named Loki – her first show dog – secured the Best of Breed award. The odds were against inexperienced two-year-old Loki but he put his best paw forward at the NEC. His 33-year-old owner said: "I am on cloud nine right now. I did not expect to be getting this. Loki is my first show dog. He has made my day. I did not expect to win, so to get to this, it is just amazing." *Picture by Flick.digital*

POLICE

Arrests after youths force train to stop

TWO teenagers have been arrested after youths were seen throwing stones from a railway bridge in Great Wyrley and forced a train to make an emergency stop.

Police rushed to the scene at 3pm on Thursday following reports that teenagers were throwing stones from the bridge onto the A34 and Lodge Lane and had trespassed onto the railway. Staffordshire Police and British Transport Police searched the area and detained two boys, aged 14 and 16, who live in the Walsall area.

Both youths have been released under investigation while inquiries continue.

CRIME

15pc increase in violent incidents

VIOLENT crime has risen 15 per cent in a year in Staffordshire with spikes in Cannock Chase and Stafford, shock figures have revealed.

The number of 'violent' incidents recorded by the force rose from 25,624 in 2016 to 29,352 last year.

Last week Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis hosted a debate featuring knife crime victims on how to tackle violent crime.

● Full report – Page 4

FARM

Demand to clear site as fire finally put out

COUNCIL bosses are putting pressure on the Slitting Mill site owners to clear rubbish now that a fire which had been burning for 18 months has finally been put out.

Staffordshire County Council says it will continue to monitor the site at Oak Tree Farm to ensure that is 'cleared of all unauthorised waste as soon as possible'.

● Confident – Page 7

INSIDE

TAKING A BOW IN HOMETOWN

PAGE 2

CONTENTS

LETTERS	8
CLUB NEWS	9
FOCUS ON . . .	21
TV LISTINGS	30-31
PUZZLES PAGE	33
PROPERTY	35
MOTORING	47
SPORT	59-60

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Students benefit from Stephen's legacy

Stephen Sutton

THE mother of inspirational teenager Stephen Sutton was delighted to congratulate graduates of a scholarship named in her late son's memory.

Jane Sutton joined friends and family at Coventry University to celebrate the graduation of the students who have received the scholarship thanks to Stephen. The group of 14, including four from the United States, were awarded the post graduate certificate in teenage and young adult cancer care.

They are the second group to benefit from having their tuition fees paid through the Stephen Sutton Scholarship. By 2020 a total of 50 scholarships will be awarded to professionals working with young cancer patients.

Stephen, from Burntwood, was diagnosed with bowel cancer when he was 15 and died in May 2014 aged 19.

Stephen's Story captured the hearts and minds of the nation with his incredible positivity and 'bucket list' of things he wanted to achieve, and it still inspires people today.

His mother has continued his legacy through fundraising activities including completing the London Marathon and setting a Guinness World Skydive Record in 2015. In October she reached the summit of Africa's highest peak Mount Kilimanjaro and will also be participating in next month's London Marathon.

Jane said: "To be invited back to Coventry University, three years on from collecting Stephen's posthumous honorary doctorate in science, and witness the students graduate after benefitting from the Stephen Sutton Scholarship is an honour and a privilege.

"Stephen's wish was for every young person diagnosed with cancer to receive the best possible care and treatment," she added.

Chris: Cannock more important than BBC

"I just need to sit down, have a cup of tea, and take it all in."

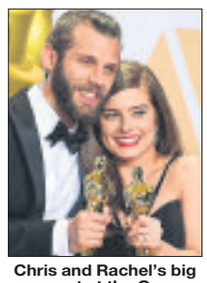
Those were the words of Oscar winner Chris Overton as he brought his shiny new trophy back home for the first time.

Arriving at Cannock's Electric Palace Cinema to cheers and applause from staff, the unassuming director casually pulled a hooded jumper from his backpack and unrolled it to reveal the 24-carat gold-plated statue nestled inside.

He and screenwriter fiancée Rachel Shenton were gracing the red carpets of Hollywood only last week after triumphing at the Academy Awards for their live action short film The Silent Child.

But on Sunday the award-winning director seemed very down to earth at his hometown cinema wearing blue jeans, a cream-coloured Levi's jacket and a sporty backpack containing his new prize.

Oscar winner Chris Overton drops in to the Electric Palace Picture House in Cannock



Chris and Rachel's big moment at the Oscars

A still from the film

Demand

Rachel was away celebrating Mother's Day in her hometown of Stoke.

Chris, aged 28, said: "I don't think it's sunk in. I haven't had a moment to breathe. I think it's more other people's reactions that help it sink in.

"We're really in demand right now. BBC Breakfast asked us if we wanted to come in but we couldn't make it work. It's more important to me to be here in Cannock than on BBC Breakfast."

Wolves fan Chris, from Heath Hayes, said it was his football club's crushing 4-1 defeat against Aston Villa on Saturday that finally 'brought him back to reality'.

He joked: "My brother is a Villa fan so we sat in the Villa end. That really brought me back down to earth, back to reality." Chris and Rachel stood in front of hundreds of Hollywood icons to collect their award, with the likes of Meryl Streep and Gary Oldman in the audience.

Chris's parents Andy and Lynne, who raised £1,000 selling cupcakes to help crowdfund the film, were also in LA last week – and Chris admitted 'the real moment' for him was seeing his father wipe away proud tears.

The new-found stars have already decided where both their Oscars will go, on a bookshelf in the living room either end of a sign reading 'Dream Big', Chris said. Shaking hands with Electric Cinema owner Graeme Cotton, as he handed him the heavy statue to hold, the award-winning director recalled the trips he used to make to his local movie theatre. He said: "I used to come here as a child.

"I remember being rejected to a 12 film, as I was only 11. I can't remember what I was even seeing. I guess they just thought I was too little."

The former Hollyoaks stars, playing Mitzeee Minniver and Liam McAllister in the Channel 4 show, hope to develop their film – the story of four-year-old deaf girl Libby living in a world of silence – into a feature-length production. Collecting the prize last week Rachel delivered her speech in sign language for the film's six-year-old star Maisie Sly, who is deaf, in front of tens of millions of people across the world.

Rachel's late father became deaf when she was very young, and she has been tirelessly campaigning to get sign language into schools and break down the communication barriers deaf children face.

Chris added: "Rachel has been campaigning for this for 12 years – to have this regarded as an important issue. Theresa May mentioned Maisie's name in parliament which was good but there is still work to do. "

The film will be on at the Electric Cinema again in the near future, Chris said, with more details soon.

Lord Jones to outline business solutions

CANNOCK Friends of St Giles have organised an evening with Lord Digby Jones next month.

Following a meal, Lord Jones will give a presentation titled:'Fixing Britain, Fixing Business, Fixing . . . ?'

"Small & medium-sized businesses are at the very heart of our economy and they need understanding and help from those who make the rules," he said.

Lord Jones

"Today, our small-business risk-takers and entrepreneurs need a leg up like never before"

During the event, there will also be a Q & A session and the opportunity to purchase Lord Jones's book and have it signed by him, with all proceeds going to St Giles Hospice.

Lord Jones gives talks around the world, speaking up for businessmen and businesswomen wherever possible, and chairs a number of UK businesses including Triumph Motorcycles and Thatchers Cider. The event will be at The George Hotel in Lichfield on Thursday, April 26, at 6.30 for 7pm.

Cannock Friends say they expect the tickets, £39 each, to sell fast. Further details and tickets are available from members of Cannock Friends. Email Trish Mellor at trishmellor@yahoo.co.uk or Lynda Williams at ljw8133@gmail.com

Girlguiding in charity link-up

GIRLGUIDING units have raised thousands of pounds for Macmillan Cancer Support as part of their commitment to social action.

In Staffordshire alone, members raised £7,532 through a range of fundraising activities, which could help fund more than 269 Macmillan nursing hours helping people living with cancer and their families receive essential medical, practical and emotional support.

Girlguiding Midlands launched their 12-month partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support in January with a programme of activities to volunteer, and raise funds and awareness, for the charity.

Maureen Recine, County Commissioner for Girlguiding Staffordshire said: "It has been lovely to see our members helping in the wider community."

Hunting out plants

THE National Memorial Arboretum is to host Plant Hunters' Fairs on March 17, May 12 and July 28 at which there will be plants and tools to buy as well as gardening advice on offer. This year sees a record number of specialist nurseries at the events, which run 10am to 4pm.

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Thousands limbering up for half marathon

THOUSANDS of runners are set to pound the streets of Stafford on Sunday for the its 34th half marathon.

It will start at 10am followed by the fun run at 10.10am.

There are 4,000 runners involved, of varying ability, from across Staffordshire, the West Midlands, the rest of the UK and even further afield, with some runners visiting from France and Belgium.

A formal prize giving ceremony will take place in Market Square at 12.30pm with the mayor of Stafford presenting trophies and awards to the men's and women's winners as well as veteran categories. Last year's winning times were 70:33 completed by Jordan Weaver and 85:57 run by Rebecca Harrison.

For the one-mile fun run, 900 runners dressed as heroes and heroines will flood the streets.

Freedom Leisure events and marketing manager Liz Hulse said: "Both these running events are much loved by the local community, both those who partake and spectate.

"There is always a fantastic atmosphere, and the runners always say how much the support of the crowds helps to spur them on."

Volunteers who want to help hand out water, bananas, T-shirts and medals as well as directing the runners can email staffordevents@freedom-leisure.co.uk

Take next step on family history tree

PEOPLE who attended family history lessons for beginners have the opportunity to take their interest to the next level.

A six-week course is to be held at Burntwood Library starting on Wednesday, April 11 and running until May 16, between 2pm and 4pm.

"I have been approached by people who attended my earlier classes who would like me to provide family history lessons at the next level, ie not beginners," organiser Pam Woodburn said. "I am happy to do this and will be calling theses lessons The Next Step. I also have a waiting list for anyone interested in beginners' classes."

Anyone who is interested can call 01543 684208 or email Pam at pam.woodburn@talktalk.net

Neighbourly win

TEN neighbours in Cannock have each won a £1,000 cash prize with the People's Postcode Lottery. The Maple Drive winners, who all play with the postcode WS12 4QR, scooped the daily prize last Thursday.

Puppets centre stage in musical comedy

Adam Lacy and Lucy Follows rehearsing

TWO Cannock actors are taking leading roles in the musical comedy hit Avenue Q.

Lucy Follows and Adam Lacey both make their debut appearances with Lichfield Operatic Society in the production. The show is noted for its use of puppets, animated by unconcealed puppeteers, alongside human actors.

In Avenue Q, Lucy plays Kate Monster, a puppet and kindergarten teaching assistant, and Adam plays Brian, a human.

Although it is the first time Lucy and Adam have performed with the company, they have both taken on many parts in other shows.

Lucy's roles include Kim in Miss Saigon, Wendy in Peter Pan, Nancy in Oliver! and, most recently, Eliza Doolittle in My Fair Lady. She said: "I am thoroughly enjoying rehearsals with such a brilliant cast and company and am especially looking forward to the challenge of puppetry."

Adam's previous roles include Corny Collins in Hairspray, Bill Sykes in Oliver! and Benny in Rent. He said: "Avenue Q was one of the soundtracks of my university years, so I am over the moon to finally get a chance to perform in this ridiculously funny show."

Avenue Q is set in New York City. Inspired by children's show Sesame Street, this production creates a puppet-filled world where characters face the difficult and X-rated realities of modern day life.

The show is at the Lichfield Garrick from May 8 to 12. Visit www.lichfield-garrick.com or call 01543 412121.

Due to adult themes, the show is not suitable for under-16s.

● Magic – Page 10

We will block badger culling, says charity

A DEFIANT wildlife charity has vowed that it will not give permission for any badger culling at the 27 nature reserve sites it runs in Staffordshire.

The Government has announced a public consultation on extending the cull to eight more counties, including Staffordshire, in a bid to eradicate bovine TB.

It comes after more than 19,000 animals were killed in counties around the country but Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, based at The Wolseley Centre, in Wolseley Bridge, is 'dismayed' at the proposals. Helen Dale, the trust's head of conservation and delivery, says that although bovine TB needs tackling, badger culling is not the answer and it will not be culling on any of the sites it owns or manages.

"Staffordshire Wildlife Trust is dismayed to hear that there are proposals to extend licensed badger culling in our county," she said.

"We remain very conscious of the hardship that Bovine Tuberculosis causes in the farming community and fully support the need to find the right mechanisms to control the disease.

Number

"However, we do not believe that a badger cull is the answer. Scientific research funded by the Government has shown that badger culling, unless carried out in line with strict criteria including the requirement to be across very large areas, could be counter-productive.

"We will not give permission for a cull to take place on our nature reserves and are currently undertaking a badger vaccination programme on a number of locations."

The trust's sites include the 48-acre George's Hayes woodland on the edge of Cannock Chase; Highgate Common, a 321-acre lowland heath near Wombourne; Doxey Marshes on the outskirts of Stafford; and Gentleshaw Common.

Government advisory body Natural England is inviting people in Staffordshire to submit their views on the proposals. A Natural England spokesman said it has received applications for licences to cull badgers in counties including Staffordshire and Shropshire. The consultation runs until April 15 at defra.gov.uk

Practice manager and clinical director Rachel Duncan from 387 Veterinary Centre in Great Wyrley – 'to be a finalist is just incredible'

Rachel in line for vets award

THE practice manager and clinical director at a Great Wyrley veterinary practice has reached the final of a national competition.

Rachel Duncan from 387 Veterinary Centre is one of three finalists in the Practice Manager of the Year category of the Petplan Veterinary Awards. She will be attending the awards ceremony at Birmingham Town Hall on April 5.

Now in their 19th year, the awards are hailed as the Oscars of the veterinary world, and are designed to celebrate individuals and practices that have gone above and beyond in their daily work to make a real difference to others.

This year, more than 22,000 nominations were received in support of UK veterinary professionals across five award categories.

Rachel said: "Even to be nominated is a real honour, but to be a finalist is just incredible."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Meeting to take a trip down streets

THE March meeting of the Bridgtown & District Local History Society is on Wednesday at the Bethel in Union Street.

The talk is another in the series 'More Memories of Bridgtown' and will be presented by Derrick Middleton. The streets to be featured are Union, Cross and Bridge.

Many photographs of the buildings and the people which made these three streets such a strong community will be featured in the talk, which starts at 10am.

Admission is £1 and refreshments will be available. Non-members are very welcome to attend.

All change as cafe appoints new cook

THE owners of Canalside Farm, near Rugeley, have appointed a new cook, as they prepare to make changes to the meals they offer at their café.

The family-run farm, which has been growing its own produce for more than 30 years, opened the café in 2014. Now, new cook Ashley Guy will be assisting in enhancing the menu.

Owners Chris and Wendy Barton said: "We are thrilled to welcome Ashley to the farm and we are sure that working alongside Julia, our head cook, and the rest of the kitchen team, he will make some fantastic changes."

Children's market now twice a year

A NEW children's market first held last year will become a bi-annual event after its initial success.

Penkridge Market has announced that its children's market will be held twice a year, in April and September.

The new event, which was held for the first time in April 2017, proved popular with the public and so owners have now decided to hold it twice a year. The first event is on April 15.

The market, which will be entirely dedicated to children, features stallholders selling nearly new children's clothes, toys and handmade crafts.

Ice skaters to glide in for Easter gala

AN Easter gala featuring dozens of talented skaters will be held at Planet Ice in Cannock in April.

This year's production will be Dancing Feet, about a penguin who cannot skate but who conquers his fears to attempt to become a skating champion.

The annual gala, performed by local skaters, will be held on Saturday, April 21, at the rink in Lakeside Plaza, Walkmill Lane. Call 01922 419594 or email cannock@planet-ice.co.uk

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COUNTY NEWS

Caution urged on fire service move

UKIP has urged caution over plans by the West Midlands super council to take over the region's fire service.

West Midlands Mayor Andy Street would have sole accountability for the governance of the West Midlands Fire Service in the scheme but MEP James Carver said: "If this change goes ahead the Mayor will be responsible for the community safety plan, budgeting, setting the fire council tax precept and appointing the chief fire officer, who in turn, would be directly accountable to the Mayor.

"We need assurances this committee will have some powers of veto."

● Advice – Page 12

Ibstock profits fall as it invests

CLAY bricks and concrete products group Ibstock saw pre-tax profits fall despite rising sales last year.

Revenue at Ibstock, which has sites in Cannock and Walsall, rose by 3.9 per cent to £451.6 million with the profit figure down 24.7 per cent to £83.4m as it invested in additional UK brick capacity to meet demand.

Ibstock Brick was helped by good activity levels within the UK new build housing sector with brick volumes ahead year-on-year supported by stock reductions.

Replacement of the brick kiln at the Lodge Lane blue brick plant in Cannock is on schedule

PDSA in appeal to help sick animals

STAFF and volunteers at a charity shop are urging animal lovers to donate any unwanted items to help sick and injured pets.

The Wolverhampton PDSA shop, based inside the Mander Centre, is after CDs, DVDs, books and toys, as well as men's and ladies' clothing, shoes and accessories. Donations can be taken to the shop from Monday to Saturday, between 9am and 5pm.

Money raised will go towards PDSA-funded veterinary treatment.

Bobbie the builder – can she fix it?

NEARLY a third of UK homeowners would rather hire a female builder than a man, according to new research by the Federation of Master Builders.

The study into opinions on female builders and tradespeople saw 30 per cent say they would feel more positive about hiring a woman to complete a task, with one of the top considerations being they think a woman might be more respectful of their home.

Police call in help for neighbourhoods

DOZENS of extra officers are to be drafted into neighbourhood policing teams in Staffordshire to tackle a rise in crime.

Staffordshire Police announced it was adding officers to all its teams, including those in Stafford, Cannock Chase and South Staffordshire, this year. But the force could not say at this stage exactly how many officers would be added to each team.

It comes in the wake of rising crime levels across the districts.

Violent crime has increased dramatically across the county, while 'personal' robberies doubled in Stafford to 60 last year. There were also increases in Cannock Chase and South Staffordshire.

Thefts of motor vehicles have also crept up along with burglaries, apart from in Cannock Chase where it reduced. Chief Insp Sarah Wainwright, Cannock Chase Local Policing Team Commander, and Chief Insp Gemma Ward, Stafford Borough Local Policing Team Commander, released a joint statement saying: "We are seeing an increase in violence offences, but this is a trend seen not just across the force, but across the country.

"Working with partners like Community Safety Partnerships, we have seen recent successes in educating the public on how to avoid becoming a victim of crime and staying safe on a night out." The figures showed a 42 per cent spike in residential burglaries in South Staffordshire, up to 531 incidents last year.

Insp Richard Meaden, Commander for South Staffordshire Local Policing Team, said he was working on crime prevention with communities.

Concern as violent crime goes up 15pc in one year

By Alex Ross

VIOLENT crime has risen 15 per cent in a year in Staffordshire with spikes in Cannock Chase and Stafford, shock figures have revealed.

The number of 'violent' incidents recorded by the force rose from 25,624 in 2016 to 29,352 last year.

But in Stafford the rate increased further, up 30 per cent from 2,181 in 2016 to 2,837 last year. And in Cannock Chase the number of 'violent incidents' rose 22 per cent from 2,059 to 2,505. South Staffordshire saw a rise of 13 per cent, from 1,588 to 1,792.

The crimes include violence resulting in serious and minor injuries as well as 'other violence'. This can include threats to kill and harassment, and can be internet-based.

Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis hosted a debate featuring knife crime victims on how to tackle violent crime last week.

Recruit

Stafford MP Jeremy Lefroy said the figures, obtained following a Freedom of Information Act request, said: "Of course, it does concern me greatly, but it is happening all over the country.

"I'm sure it [violent crime] is not all physical attacks, some of it will be online and we need a breakdown of where they are happening; online or on the street.

"It is very concerning on robbery, although the numbers are still relatively low, and on the theft from motor vehicles, it is a concern.

Mr Ellis has decided to raise the force's council tax precept by 6.29 per cent, adding £11.40 a year to a Band D property.

It includes £3.3 million earmarked to hire more officers – 44 new officers in 2018-19 and a further 25 in the following 12 months.

Theatre pays its own tribute to Doddy

A pleasure to watch – Ken Dodd preparing for a show at the Prince of Wales Theatre in Cannock in 2010

CANNOCK'S Prince of Wales Theatre has paid tribute to legendary comic Sir Ken Dodd, who has died aged 90.

Doddy would come on stage at the theatre on an annual basis, appearing last in September.

Theatre manager Richard Kay, who has worked with the comedian since 1989, said he was left 'genuinely saddened' by his death.

He remembers the theatre putting on two shows a night for the comedian, well-known for his over-running performances.

He said: "In those days we used to do two shows on the same day, at 6.30pm and 9pm, but of course the 6.30pm show would overrun and it would be 10.15pm until we could get the second one on.

"You would have queues of people in the theatre, and we'd try our best to move things along. After a few years, people got used to it, and those coming to the later show would turn up an hour late.

"There are not many performers who can hold the audience in the palm of their hand. If he went off piste, the audience went with him.

"It was a pleasure to watch him, and he will be missed."

He had married Anne Jones, his partner of 40 years, on Friday. Lady Jones had also worked as his agent.

Jobs at risk as New Look intends to shut stores

NEARLY 1,000 shop workers face the axe after struggling fashion chain New Look revealed plans to shut 60 stores as part of a rescue plan.

It will see the rent it pays slashed at nearly 400 more shops nationwide.

New Look is the latest victim of the slowdown on the high street that has already seen Toys R Us and Maplin collapse into administration, while a number of restaurant chains have been forced to announced closures.

With less money being spent on the high street, New Look is having a tough time fending off cheaper rivals like Primark and the big supermarkets as well as online budget fashion stores. Primark is doing particularly well and is opening its biggest ever UK store at Birmingham's Pavilions shopping centre later this year.

New Look has struggled amid a 'challenged trading performance and a difficult retail environment' and has put together a rescue deal that will see it close 60 stores, including its men's shop at Merry Hill.

It has also secured rent cuts at 393 of its remaining 533 UK shops – about two thirds – which will almost certainly include some of its stores in Wolverhampton, Walsall, Cannock, West Bromwich, Dudley and Halesowen, as well as its womenswear shop at Merry Hill and its two stores in Stafford.

The rescue deal is called a Company Voluntary Arrangement (CVA) and New Look says all the stores will remain open until its creditors – banks, suppliers and landlords – vote on the proposal on March 21.

Up to 980 jobs out of its workforce of 15,300 are under threat.

Bank to close and move to Cannock

YORKSHIRE Bank is closing its branch in Wolverhampton Street, Dudley, in June and relocating to Cannock.

It marks seven branches that will be closing in England, including one in Stafford. A Yorkshire Bank spokesman said some jobs will be at risk.

The announcement comes as the bank has seen a decline in footfall.

The spokesman added: "It is the bank's intention to find roles for branch staff either within other branches or elsewhere in the bank, wherever possible.

"However, a small number of employees will be at risk of redundancy and subject to our redeployment process. All employees affected by these changes will be fully supported through the process."

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Hundreds of jobs to be created at JCB sites

JCB is to create 600 jobs in the next three months due to global demand.

Two hundred jobs are available to start immediately, including 50 in Rugeley, which include welders, paint sprayers and assemblers.

One hundred will be needed at Power Systems, Foston, plus 50 within the next four weeks, and most of the jobs will be at Rocester. Another 400 are required within 12 weeks.

JCB chief operating officer Mark Turner said: "This is great news for the local economy and great news for anyone seeking to work with a globally successful business.

"We know the cities of Stoke-on-Trent, Derby and surrounding towns have people with the skills we need.

"We urgently need fabrication welding skills along with paint sprayers, and general assemblers who will be given full training. The opportunities are initially for agency employees. However, we see them as long-term opportunities – in fact, in the first three months of 2018 we have given permanent contracts to 200 agency staff. That means over the past four years we have handed permanent contracts to 850 agency employees.

"The future is very bright for JCB as global demand for our machines continues to grow."

To find out more about the opportunities available, or to apply, visit www.jcb.com/en-gb/about/careers

Choir back in good voice after appeal

A MIXED-VOICE choir which was seeking to appoint a musical director is to resume rehearsals following an appeal in the Chronicle.

Bloxwich Community Chorus meets at 7.30pm every Friday at St John's Methodist Church, in Victoria Avenue, Bloxwich, where a group of about 40 singers perform a variety of pieces in their concerts.

The choir would welcome anyone who enjoys singing together.

Auditions are not necessary, and for details call secretary Marion Malaband on 01922 458637.

The group has the services of a temporary accompanist but is seeking someone on a permanent basis.

Interested parties should contact the same number.

Ramblers' outing

CHASE Ramblers will be going on an eight-mile moderate walk to Hopwas and Whittington this Sunday, meeting as usual at Hednesford railway station car park for a 9am prompt departure. Call Phil on 07963 619672.

Helpers turn tunnel vision into reality

A culvert section is lowered into place

VOLUNTEERS overcame the worst of the elements to move more than 230 tons of a concrete tunnel as part of a canal restoration project.

The 11 sections of culvert, each weighing 21.3 tons, had to be transported from their storage site at Hazel Lane Colliery to Darnford Moors in Lichfield because of a proposed development at the Great Wyrley site.

The move forms part of the overall restoration of the Lichfield and Hatherton Canals, which were abandoned in the 1950s. One of the many challenges Lichfield & Hatherton Canal Restoration Trust faces in its restoration project is a crossing under Darnford Lane. Volunteers said that having to move the concrete presented an ideal opportunity to put the culvert sections in place ready for when a tunnel will be installed. However, not everything went to plan.

Volunteers had dug out the canal bed to the correct depth, constructed a platform for a huge crane and cleared the Great Wyrley site for the big lift. Unfortunately, the 350-ton crane heading for Darnford Moors broke down on the M1 and the expected 6am start of the two-hour operation was delayed until 2pm.

Meanwhile, six low-loaders, each carrying a culvert section, were held up at Norton Canes services on the M6 Toll until the crane was set up.

Trust volunteers were prepared to work into the night, but Storm Emma forced them to stop early. The next day's improved conditions meant the first six sections were lifted into place by 9am, with the lowloaders making return journeys to Great Wyrley for the five remaining sections. The last section was swung into place at 1pm.

Reveller, 25, fell to his death from nightclub

A REVELLER plummeted to his death from a Cannock nightclub as he scrambled – or fell – over a barrier while 'intoxicated', an inquest in the town heard.

Ryan Shenton, aged 25, died after sustaining a head injury when he plunged to the ground at the back of the 40ft-high Quartz nightclub.

His body was discovered hours later by staff from a nearby bank as they prepared to open the branch, the hearing was told.

Recording a conclusion of accidental death, coroner Andrew Haigh said: "Staff arriving to work at Barclays bank made the most unpleasant discovery of Ryan's body on the ground. Ryan was a popular young man and had a lot of positives in his life.

Ryan Shenton

"It appears, in an intoxicated condition, Ryan has gone over the barrier. Whether he climbed or fell we cannot say."

Mr Shenton had been out with friends when he left the Church Street nightclub through a back door at about 2.30am on August 19 last year. Det Sgt Ian Press, of Lichfield CID, told the inquest that officers believe Mr Shenton then tried to climb a barrier before falling to the ground.

He added: "It was a common access point to the club. People would enter the club on the ground floor and leave at the ramp where Ryan left by." A toxicology report revealed that Mr Shenton, of Green Lane, Leamore, near Bloxwich, was more than three times over the drink-drive limit. He had 263mg of alcohol in 100ml of blood – the legal limit is 80mg – and had also consumed cocaine.

An investigation is being carried out by Cannock Chase Council. A council spokesperson confirmed that the club shut last December, adding: "The council's role in this matter is to establish whether or not any offences under health and safety legislation may have been committed. The police handed the investigation over to the council late in November 2017 and the council's enquiries are ongoing."

Chance to meet lemurs up close

Samantha Pardoe, from Penkridge, at the Animal Zone on South Staffordshire College's Rodbaston Campus

ANIMAL lovers have been invited to meet lemurs in their new home.

The Animal Zone, which is based on South Staffordshire College's Rodbaston Campus, near Penkridge, opened the exhibit last month.

Visitors can enjoy a VIP experience where they are able to enter the enclosure and meet ring tailed lemurs and red fronted lemurs up close.

The project has been driven by animal centre manager David Crumpton, along with keepers Eliot Guy and Andy Cooper.

Animal keeper Lisa Langston said: "They are little escape artists but they are really cool and they are very funny.

"Come and visit us and the gang.

"We have had some really positive feedback," she added.

The centre is open at weekends, from 10am to 4pm, and every day during term breaks.

NEWS IN BRIEF

£125k of cannabis plants discovered

HUNDREDS of cannabis plants with an estimated street value of £125,000 have been found at an industrial estate building near the M6.

The discovery was made at the Hilton Park site near Essington.

A total of 200 plants were discovered in three rooms. The electricity supply had also been diverted to power the equipment, but the property has since been made safe.

Police raided the building with South Staffordshire Council. No-one was at the address at the time.

Insp Richard Meaden said: "This was an example of fantastic work by officers, taking drugs off our streets."

Employers invited to attend jobs fair

CANNOCK Chase MP Amanda Milling is urging local businesses to sign up for her jobs fair in April.

Employers are being invited to take up the opportunity of exhibiting at the event, which will enable them to meet with jobseekers. It is completely free for both businesses and jobseekers.

The jobs fair will take place at the Rugeley Rose Theatre on Friday, April 20, from 10am until 1pm, in partnership with Rugeley Town Council and Cannock Wood company ATP Electronic Developments Ltd. To register to exhibit, call 01543 877142.

Tail-wagging fun as dog jog returns

THE bigdogjog to support retired police dogs takes place next month.

This year's event, organised by Staffordshire Police, is in memory of one of the force's former dog handlers Darren Aird. A family fun event, participants can run or walk either one lap (5km) or two laps (10km) around Chasewater with or without a dog.

The Staffordshire Retired Police Dog Fund recognises the contribution made by these dogs and raises funds for their ongoing welfare. The event takes place on April 28. To sign up visit staffsretiredpolicedogs.org

Parking charges at beauty spot start

PARKING charges have come into force at a beauty spot.

Staffordshire County Council made the decision to implement the charges at Chasewater Country Park in December and parking will cost £1 an hour or £3 a day, while annual passes will be available for £36.

County council Cabinet member, Mark Winnington, said: "This decision is part of developing and implementing a car parking strategy."

IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Sporting ethics are not MPs' concerns

AS sporting events go, it is hard to think of anything more dreary than the Tour de France, a spectacle of unsmiling men in synthetic clothing using a slow, outdated form of transport. It's like a three-week episode of the new politically correct Top Gear, without Clarkson's wit.

That said, I can't help but feel sympathy for Sir Bradley Wiggins, who finds his reputation in tatters after a Department for Culture, Media and Sport select committee accused him and his team of "crossing an ethical line."

Now I have no idea whether Wiggins used nefarious means to win the 2012 Tour de France, but since when has it been the role of politicians to adjudicate on sporting conduct? Surely this is a matter for the cycling authorities.

What next? VAR replays being transmitted to Westminster? Parliamentary votes on LBW and penalty decisions? Then again, if somebody wants to make Ken Clarke and John Prescott run the line at the New Den, that's fine with me.

■■■

BESIDES, if politicians want to become embroiled in sport, there are more pressing issues.

Last week a man and his daughter were poisoned with nerve gas in Salisbury, and several innocent civilians, including a seriously ill policeman, are in hospital.

If – and it's still a big if – Russia is behind the attacks, our options are limited. Economic sanctions? Been there, done that. Military action? Out of the question. Send a few diplomats home? Putin would laugh up his sleeve.

One thing that would hurt Putin though, would be if his beloved World Cup was in jeopardy. Now if, as suggested, England dropped out, it might be perceived as an empty gesture. After all, our chances of winning are slim. But imagine if France, Germany, Italy, Holland and Belgium also joined the boycott as a show of European solidarity against tyranny. Yeah, right. They'd rather punish us over Brexit.

■■■

SO sad to hear about the death of Ken Dodd. One of the last of a dwindling breed, he saw his role as making us laugh. No smut, no politics, just good clean fun.

One of my favourite moments as a journalist was sitting with him backstage at Dudley Town Hall, where he fondly reminisced about his days as a young comedian, cutting his teeth at Dudley Hippodrome followed by some heady nights in its Glue Pot bar.

Sir Ken is no longer with us, and the Hippodrome won't be for much longer either. Sad days.

Government: It's everybody's fault but theirs

Donald Trump – European Union warning over threat of imposing tariffs

Max Mosley – morphing into Twister from Beeb's Lark Rise to Candleford?

Monty Don – 'seriously misquoted' over using fewer plastic products in our gardens

It all comes down to blame culture

HOW to be a government. 1) Allow the population to grow by 500,000 a year. 2) Blame local councils for not permitting enough houses. 3) Blame developers for not building enough houses. 4) Blame landowners for not releasing land for more houses. 5) Blame everybody but yourselves.

THE European Union warns that if Donald Trump imposes tariffs, Brussels may retaliate with tariffs on Levi jeans, Harley Davidson motorbikes and bourbon whiskey. The price of that mid-life crisis could go through the roof.

FROM the small ads: "Deep fryer for sale, excellent condition, no chips."

I KNEW this had been a long, miserable winter but it was only after putting my old boat on the lake this week that I realised how long. It was the first time I had sailed since October 12. We Brits spend half the year waiting for the other half and hoping it will be better.

I WROTE recently about Donald Trump's joke on "self-deprecating humour." A reader says surely this should be "humor." Not at all. Trump, being an American, said "humor" but I, being British, heard "humour." On my honor.

I AM at the age where blokes worry about prostate cancer. As well they might. Years of watching TV medical dramas has convinced most of us that the Big C follows a pattern. You get the symptoms, go for tests which confirm the GP's hunch, the clever young surgeon cuts out the offending tumour and you live happily ever after (unless the TV ratings are bad, in which case they may bump you off). As a survey this week reveals, prostate cancer is very different.

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

WITH prostate cancer you may or may not develop symptoms. The only available test for detecting signs of prostate cancer is about as much use as tossing a coin. A follow-up biopsy may leave you impotent, incontinent or both. The cancer may kill you quickly or do nothing, and you die of old age. A serious prostate cancer can look benign and a benign cancer can appear serious. And sometimes surgery can release cancerous cells into the rest of your body. We need a better diagnostic process. So is there no hope? Actually, there is. This latest study followed 400,000 middle-aged men for a decade. And while routine PSA screening for prostate cancer appeared to save no lives, only three men in every 1,000 died of prostate cancer during the 10 years. Those are not bad odds. While there's no room for complacency about prostate cancer, the one thing this survey proves conclusively is that there's a lot of other stuff you can die of.

I SUSPECT Monty Don, the TV gardener, has been seriously misquoted. He wants us to use fewer plastic products in our gardens. This has been translated as a call to "get rid of" plastic tubs, pots, dibbers and so on. But it's getting rid of plastic that has caused the environmental nightmare in the first place. Don't bin it. Keep the plastic you've got but don't buy any more.

INCIDENTALLY, I am down to my last 18 plastic straws from a box, purchased some years ago, which contained 225 and carries the message from Sainsbury's "We care about our quality and what you think." I wonder what they think I should do with my last 18 straws.

ACCORDING to my local council's latest report, "sport" is the second biggest item of its expenditure. It spends more on maintaining tennis courts and providing pitches where talentless amateur footballers can scream obscenities at each other on Sunday mornings than it does on public safety, street cleaning, theatres and museums, and I dare say it's not alone. This country spends billions every year subsidising the entrenched and unchallenged notion that sport is A Good Thing which produces a fit and healthy nation that aims to win but is noble in defeat. Where, oh where, is the evidence?

IT was entirely right and proper that Members of Parliament, in the form of the The Digital, Culture, Media and Sport select committee, should be the ones to dish the dirt this week on drug taking among British cyclists. After all, it's obvious that MPs never take anything to improve their performance.

THE strain may be taking its toll on Max Mosley. Does anyone else think he's morphing into Twister (Karl Johnson) from the Beeb's Victorian drama, Lark Rise to Candleford?

TALKING POINT

Sometimes people are thankful for a moan

MY esteemed colleague last week wrote about the importance of saying thank you and I wholeheartedly agree with him on this. However, there are some occasions where I would be more tempted to say no thank you.

Unlike him I am not referring to the common courtesy thank yous when you hold the door open for someone, give them your seat on the train etc. They are always a must. I refer to service that you are less than happy with. Yes in any line of work it is lovely when you receive a phone call or letter expressing gratitude for what you have done but what if the opposite is the case?

I must admit I do have a reputation for complaining about things. Sometimes when we are out for a meal with friends I think they cringe. But if I ask for my steak medium rare that is how I want it, not done to a crisp. You are paying for the food and it should be what you ordered. Or if the food is not hot enough I send it back. I would not expect to eat it like that at home and certainly not when I am paying somebody else to provide it.

And actually the establishment should be grateful for my feedback as maybe the next time they will make sure they get it right for the customer.

It's the same with things bought in shops or online. If that product does not do what you think it should or does not look like it does on the internet site why shouldn't you take/send it back and complain? How will these businesses learn if they never have your opinion – good or bad.

And this can actually lead to a very positive experience for both sides. I recently had a problem – a scratch – with some furniture I ordered. Admittedly it was a small one which I could have covered up if necessary but I went on the online chat line and explained the situation and at no stage did they belittle my comment.

In fact they were grateful for the feedback and sorted out my complaint, turning a bad experience into a good one.

It meant that I would both use the service again and recommend it to friends. Word of mouth is so important for businesses. That is why so many send out feedback forms. You are positively encouraged to give your verdict – good or bad.

So don't be afraid to speak out. As long as it is constructive criticism or a genuine complaint it should be dealt with and hopefully then resolved.

To say thanks is great but there is nothing wrong with saying NO THANKS.

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Fire service 'confident' farm blaze finally out

A FIRE at a farm near Rugeley has been extinguished 18 months after it started.

Firefighters were first called to Oak Tree Farm at Slitting Mill at 5.50pm on September 5, 2016.

Over the following weeks and months, Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service worked with partner agencies, including Cannock Chase Council, Staffordshire County Council, the Environment Agency and Public Health England, to minimise the impact to local residents and ensure public, environmental and firefighter safety.

Very large volumes of water would have been required to extinguish the amount of waste on fire in 2016 so to protect important groundwater resources that supply drinking water, a multi-agency decision was made to cap the fire to allow the combustion to continue while reducing the emission of smoke that was a nuisance to local residents.

Fire crews from Rugeley and Cannock revisited the site throughout 2016 and 2017

Hiring

Fire crews from Rugeley and Cannock continued to revisit the site throughout 2016 and 2017, attending more than 80 times.

Additionally, more than £70,000 was spent on hiring specialist equipment which was needed to move the soil required to cap the fire.

Finally, in January 2018, a joint assessment by officers from the fire service and the Environment Agency confirmed that the flames had burnt away sufficient wood waste to leave an amount that could be safely extinguished.

Firefighters used metal lances to inject water into the heart of the stacks to put out the fires and cool the remaining waste.

During the following weeks, fire crews continued to visit the site to monitor the stacks using thermal imaging cameras, to ensure that all pockets of remaining fire were extinguished.

Tim Hyde, director of response at Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service, said: "I would like to reiterate that our priority throughout this particularly complex incident has been to extinguish the fire in the most efficient and effective way, ensuring the safety of local communities.

"We would like to thank local residents for their patience and understanding while we have dealt with this lengthy drawn-out incident.

"We are now confident the fire has been fully extinguished.

"Firefighting activity at the site has now finished and the responsibility for the site has been returned to the occupier of the land."

A high court injunction order is in place against the site owner and operator of Oak Tree Farm, prohibiting them from importing or processing material there and requiring the removal of the unauthorised waste.

Councillor Gill Heath, cabinet member for communities on Staffordshire County Council, said: "Even though the fire at Oak Tree Farm has now been extinguished, our work at the site still continues.

"We will continue to monitor the site to ensure the landowner and site operator comply with the conditions of the injunction served on them last year, and that the site is cleared of all unauthorised waste as soon as possible.

"This may involve making further application to the high court if the injunction is not complied with."

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Disgusting, anti-social and lazy

ILLEGAL fly-tipping is still with us. I took this photograph at Pye Green on Sunday. This is a disgusting anti-social activity by people too idle to dispose of rubbish properly.

This is just one example of it. There are plenty more around the district. The Tory tip tax certainly doesn't help.

I arranged for Cannock Chase Council to clear the rubbish, but it is at a cost to council tax payers.

GEORGE ADAMSON
Cannock

Creating opens spaces puts up house prices

I AM sorry to argue with a gentleman of the cloth but much of what the Rev Paul O'Brein suggests in his letter is poppycock ("Developers should go British with planting", March 8).

He states that forcing developers to include open and green space in developments is great.

Also suggested is, planners should force developers to use only native species in the planting. We should realise that setting aside swathes of land for scrappy areas of so-called green space only puts up the price of the houses and wastes more valuable land.

It also adds more cost to council landscape departments struggling to maintain what we already have..

Between Stafford, Rugeley and Cannock, there is a little area called the Chase if we need to enjoy open space. We need to look again at our priorities for housing. The Georgians and Cornish fishermen built at far greater densities than we do and yet managed to give us charm and beauty.

Perhaps we should try their solutions. With a bit of grass of course.

GRAHAME WIGGIN.
Heath Hayes

Welfare of horses is our top priority

BRITISH horseracing's jump racing season is reaching its annual crescendo in the form of the Cheltenham Festival and the Grand National Festival. While these two world-class events bring welcome attention to the sport each year, there is so much more to racing than these two fixtures.

British horseracing stages around 1,500 fixtures every year, which see the 14,000 or so horses in training at any one time competing at 60 racecourses the length and breadth of the country. The sport's cross-industry campaign The Horse Comes First is in place to raise awareness of the very high standards of care and welfare we expect of everyone within the sport.

DAVID SYKES
British Horseracing Authority

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Cannock & Rugeley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
cannock.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Support for bus petition is welcome

I WOULD like to thank everyone who has shown their support by signing my petition to save evening and Sunday buses in this area.

Cannock Chase MP Amanda Milling and South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson have also shown their support. Thanks also to the Chronicle for its coverage – it has really helped increase signatures.

Nearly 2,000 people have signed the petition to date, and you too can add your name at www.change.org/p/mark-deaville-reverse-the-decision-to-cut-arriva-midlands-funding-save-sunday-services

I hope to keep you informed about the petition with the help of Change.org and the Chronicle.

LEE MURPHY
Campaigner

Roads have never been this bad . . .

I WOULD like to raise the subject of potholes in my area of South Staffs.

I have never seen the roads around Great Wyrley and Cheslyn Hay look so neglected.

There has been no attempt to repair these roads for years, and it's getting worse every day.

I drive around the road network in the county every week, and the roads are appalling
and an absolute disgrace.

Besides loads of roadworks, motorists have to put up with trying to avoid potholes everywhere.

When are we going to see some sort of improvement?

GEOFFREY GREEN
Great Wyrley

. . . and now this just adds insult to injury

I COULD not believe what I saw today. The council were repainting white lines, when there are still great potholes in the road.

Anyone can see white lines, even if they are faded, but potholes damage our cars.

This is not good use of resources. Have they not go anything better to do?

DOUGLAS MINALL
Heath Hayes

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Centenary reception at palace

Rugeley & District Lions

RUGELEY & District Lions Club were among those celebrating a 'Century of Service' at Buckingham Palace.

The Countess of Wessex, as Patron of Lions Clubs of the British Isles held the royal reception on February 28. HRH has been its ptron since 2004.

President Jane Stevenson from Rugeley & District Lions Club joined in the 100th birthday celebrations with hundreds of volunteers who came together with the organisations' partners for the pecial occasion.

Lion Phil Nathan MBE, chairman of the Centenary Celebrations for Lions Clubs of the British Isles said: "Let me begin by saying that during our first Century of service, Lions Clubs have touched millions of lives of people that needed us.

"A hundred years of service to the community is a remarkable achievement, made possible by the selfless actions of many thousands of individual men and women, each of whom has sought to make 'their' community a better place.

"As we enter our second century, the cry for help from those in need will most certainly become louder and we as volunteers are ready to show as Lions, We Care."

Lions Clubs International focuses through its Lions and Leos members upon major projects that address diabetes, youth, the environment, hunger relief, childhood cancer and sight issues affecting communities throughout the world.

Cash collected on the spot for rescue team

From left, Eileen Cryer, Sheila Yard, David Wright and Shelagh Brindley Morris

Cannock Chase Ladies Probus CLub

AT the February Luncheon at the Barns, Huntington, chairman Sheila Yard welcomed everyone present and told the ladies she was very sad to inform of the loss of three members; Dulcie Dainty, Clare Breeze and Ruth Rastall who had all recently died.

A founder member, Winifrede Haynes, would not be able to attend luncheon meetings so it was agreed to make her an Honorary Member in recognition of her many years of service to the club.

Mrs Yard also welcomed Laraine Bamford as a prospective member.

Eileen Cryer said Grace before an excellent luncheon. After the Loyal Toast a short business meeting took place then Mrs Yard introduced the guest speaker, David Wright, who gave an excellent and informative talk on the work of the Staffordshire Search & Rescue team. Funded entirely through donations from the public and local businesses, they hold The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

The ladies were so impressed that club secretary Norma Hutchinson made a spontaneous collection, amounting to £150.50. Shelagh Brindley Morris gave thanks and presented a donation on behalf of the club.

Oyez! Town crier gives address

Cannock Townswomen

CANNOCK Townswomen enjoyed an evening with Mr Ken Knowles who gave an entertaining and informative alk about his role as Lichfield City Town Crier.

Members are currently looking forward to a tour of the Amazon Fulfilment Centre in Rugeley, entering a team in the Federation Quiz night and joining in a Discussion Group.

Meetings are on the third Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm at St Luke's School, New Penkridge Road.

Ken Knowles is the TG guest

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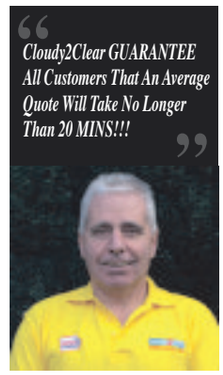

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Show to capture magic of musicals and movies

Cantorum & Friends Choir will be on the bill for Movies & Musicals in Rugeley

THE sounds of West End musicals and blockbuster movies will be the highlights of a show in Rugeley next month.

Movies & Musicals at the town's Rose Theatre on Saturday, April 14 will feature Rugeley resident Jordan Adams and special guest performers.

Adams gained prominence locally as a member of the Lichfield Operatic Society, taking the lead with rave reviews in numerous musical theatre shows at the city's Garrick Theatre.

The line-up at the Rose Theatre includes X Factor star and Dancing On Ice celebrity Chico, who promises a 'booty-shaking song and dance set'.

Adding another local flavour to the mix will be the Cantorum & Friends Choir, which consists of Lichfield Cathedral School pupils, all of whom are on scholarships for vocal abilities, and former pupils who, when they end their stint as choristers, become the Cantorum Scholarship Choir.

Movies & Musicals will raise money via a raffle for Lichfield Cathedral School, with prizes donated by local businesses.

The show starts at 7.30pm, and tickets are available online now at www.jordanadamsofficial.bigcartel.com or by calling 0844 357 9787.

Chico is in the Rose Theatre line-up

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Hall to premiere wartime documentary

Stephen Saunders, producer of War Above the Trenches, with cast and crew members

A NEW Staffordshire-made First World War documentary is to be shown at Sandon Hall, near Stafford, on March 24.

War Above the Trenches is about the air battle on the Western Front and will make its TV debut on the Yesterday channel in April. Filming took place at locations across the county including Sandon Hall, Chartley Manor and the Great War Hut at Brindley Heath on Cannock Chase. It is based on British airmen's memoirs, diaries and letters.

Sandon Hall's Great War history and stately setting made it an ideal location for the film's British and French command HQ, said the film's producer, Stephen Saunders.

Admission is strictly by ticket only. Call 01889 508004.

Tolkien display at Chasewater

A TOURING exhibition which gives an insight into the early years of JRR Tolkien and his time spent in Staffordshire has moved to Chasewater.

J.R.R. Tolkien – Soldier and Myth-Maker has already been seen by more than 220,000 visitors since it launched last March. Highlights include rare photographs and copies of original sketches by Tolkien, not seen in Staffordshire since they left with the author in 1918, specially loaned by The Tolkien Estate and Bodleian Library.

Arriving in Staffordshire on August 17, 1915, Tolkien began a connection with the county that spanned the remaining years of the Great War and provided inspiration for the mythology and geography of what we now know as Middle-earth.

During the Great War, Second Lieutenant J.R.R. Tolkien of the Lancashire Fusiliers trained in Staffordshire before he was sent to serve in the Battle of the Somme.

After contracting trench fever, he was brought back to Staffordshire to recover with his new wife Edith, in Great Haywood. They later took up residence in a cottage at Gipsy Green, Teddesley Park, near Penkridge.

The exhibition can be viewed during normal opening hours at Chasewater Visitor Centre until April 21.

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Car wash volunteer praised

A VOLUNTEER who began washing police cars as part of a two-week work experience is still carrying out the task three years later.

Phil Daly, who started helping Staffordshire Police in Stafford as part of a Prince's Trust programme, has been praised for his work by the force.

The 27-year-old says the role has helped him be more confident around people and makes him

"I started at the police station in 2013 for two weeks work experience.

"I enjoyed it and I did a good job so they asked me to stay. I like the routine, it has helped me to be more confident around people."

A picture she posted on Twitter by Chief Inspector of the Stafford's Local Policing Team Gemma Ward was liked more than 1,000 times.

She said: "He saves officers hours of valuable time so they are free to deal with incidents, and our cars stay clean and presentable."

Phil Daly helping wash cars at Stafford police station

Get Out Stay Out the advice on house fires

STAFFORDSHIRE Fire and Rescue Service has launched a campaign to encourage residents to Get Out Stay Out in the event of a blaze.

The initiative aims to remind people of the dangers of tackling a fire, attempting to gather belongings or re-entering a building during a blaze.

It highlights the importance of leaving the property as soon as possible and waiting for the fire crews to arrive.

The fire and rescue service has underlined the fact that it takes only about two breaths in a smoke-filled room to be overcome by deadly fumes, which lead to carbon monoxide poisoning and can cause death.

Research by the service shows that 59 per cent of residents who suffered an accidental house fire in Staffordshire 'did the right thing' and evacuated their homes in an emergency, but 41 per cent said they did not leave immediately.

Glynn Luznyj – 'call us straight away'

Of those asked, 52 per cent said they had tried to tackle the fire themselves. Glynn Luznyj, director of prevent and protect at the service, said: "Although the majority of people do the right thing by getting out and staying out, we do unfortunately see some people re-entering burning buildings to rescue their pets or sentimental items, such a photos, and they have suffered serious injuries or died as a result.

"It is really important to call us straight away and stay outside. When you call the fire service you can tell us what is in the property and we can make every effort to safely save it.

"In this new campaign we are using a catchy song, videos and case studies to get the Get Out Stay Out message across so that people will leave it to the fire crews. We understand why people may go back inside but we urge them not to, Get Out Stay Out and call the fire service."

Fire service seeks more volunteers

STAFFORDSHIRE Fire and Rescue Service needs more volunteers to support its community work.

It has a wide range of roles for volunteers including carrying out station visits, befriending, Safe and Well visits, road safety, events, training exercises, and cadet instructors.

The commitment is a minimum of eight hours a month, and anyone is welcome to apply.

To find out more about volunteering for the service contact volunteer co-ordinator Justine Burns on 07795 360222 or email at justine.burns@staffordshirefire.gov.uk

More information is also available by visiting www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk/careers/volunteering-programme/

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Team raise a Cool £80k on 300-mile charity ride

Team Coolair celebrate at the finish line at Angkor Wat in Cambodia

INTREPID clients, consultants and employees of a Cannock air conditioning installer put the wind in their wheels to raise £80,000 for a cancer charity.

The 17-strong group, led by Neil Gibbard, regional director of Coolair Equipment, completed the daunting challenge of cycling 300 miles through South East Asia.

The six-day trip from Saigon in Vietnam to Angkor Wat in Cambodia was in aid of Challenge Cancer UK, which distributes funds across the range of cancer support from research to respite care. After 12 months of training on UK roads, Team Coolair faced cycling for up to eight hours a day along narrow paths and unmade cross-country tracks in crushing humidity.

Mr Gibbard, who led a similar charity ride two years ago, after which he was made a corporate ambassador for Challenge Cancer UK, organised the challenge with the support of his company's supplier Mitsubishi Electric Living Environmental Systems.

Mr Gibbard, who raised the largest individual sum of £9,030 towards the £80,846 total, said: "The team were all new to such a challenge, and included biking novices, but everyone exceeded their physical and mental expectations – and their fundraising targets."

Accompanied by a local guide and a support vehicle for their bags, the party of 16 men and one woman cycled around paddy fields and along twisty temple-lined tracks in the lush Mekong Delta in Vietnam and then through the dry lands of ancient Cambodia.

Laura Welsh, contracts coordinator for Coolair, which had three staff and two clients in the team, said: "It was an amazing experience."

Team leader Neil Gibbard celebrates with Coolair colleague Laura Welsh

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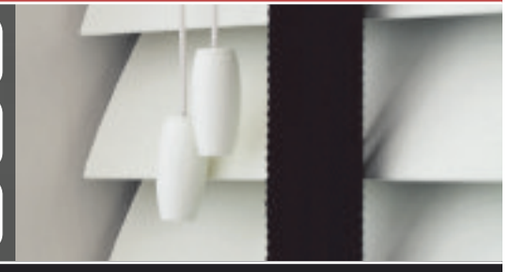

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Firm forks out £10m to give its fleet a lift

A COMPANY that makes fork-lift trucks has pumped another £10.8 million into expanding its fleet of vehicles for hire.

It brings to more than £80m the amount Briggs Equipment has invested in building its short-term hire fleet in recent months.

It now stands at more than 5,000 pieces of equipment. The company, based in Orbital Way, Cannock, employs 1,160 people, and supplies Hyster and Yale fork-lift trucks and handling equipment.

As well as companies around the UK it also provides equipment for the Armed Forces and the Ministry of Defence.

Steven Fogg

Steven Fogg, head of short-term hire at Briggs Equipment, said: "The investment not only means a greater number of machines available, but a wider range of equipment which allows us to support the growing trend in our customers streamlining their supply chains to use a sole supplier."

He added: "In a more environmentally conscious world, the steady trend away from engine powered machines has led to further investment in our electric fork-lift fleet which is ideal for indoor operations and warehousing.

"Our strategic partnerships enable us to supply rough terrain fork-lifts and roto-telehandlers, meaning that our events industry customers can get into even the trickiest spots."

"With our customers' needs becoming more diverse, we need to hold a broader range of equipment than ever before.

"This £10.8m investment means that we have the right equipment available at short notice. Alongside that we've also made further investments in our transport, contract management and telemetry."

Staff go ape over accolade

Staff celebrate being named on the 100 best companies to work for list

GO Ape has been recognised as one of the 100 best companies to work for in the UK.

Cannock Chase is one of 33 nationwide locations for the aerial adventure course and the company was named in the list compiled by the Sunday Times.

Cannock site manager Claire Potter said: "We love what we do, encouraging customers through a naturally thrilling adventure. Go Ape feels like a big family and we all try to make a positive difference."

Go Ape founders Tristram and Rebecca Mayhew said: "We are delighted that Go Ape has been recognised as one of the 100 best companies to work for, and are ever thankful to our colleagues for embracing and championing our culture and values."

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Heroes to tell their stories

LEA Hall Social Club in Rugeley is holding A Night of Heroes 2 tomorrow (Friday).

It follows A Night of Heroes which was held at Hednesford Town Football Club in 2016 to raise funds for military charities and involved two wounded service men telling their stories.

This time, the organisers say they are putting on a bigger and better event, and have already sold more than 200 tickets.

The night will involve live music, vinyl survivors DJs, a raffle, auction, buffet and four guest speakers. Kate Cherrett, partner of a double amputee, will tell how the carers cope on a daily basis.

Neil Hughes, a single amputee, and Dave Watson, triple amputee and bronze and gold medal winner at the 2017 Invictus Games, will also be there, as well as Scott Yarrington, a double amputee and also a bronze medal winner at the Games.

The event will also see local Second World War hero George Pratt attending – one day before his 100th birthday.

Housing chief: Empty homes 'unacceptable'

MORE than 10,000 homes are lying empty across Staffordshire, new figures show. The number of vacant properties in the county has shot up in the last 12 months to 10,123 compared with 9,905 in 2016.

In Cannock Chase, which has seen one of the biggest spikes, the number of empty homes has risen in two years by almost 10 per cent – from 996 in 2015 to 1,067 in 2016 and 1,090 last year. Meanwhile, there were 1,915 vacant residences in Stafford, 1,042 in South Staffordshire and 1,059 in the Lichfield district. Cannock Chase housing leader Frank Allen called the figures 'unacceptable' .

He vowed to do everything in his power to redress the upward spiral. Last year it was revealed more than £1 billion worth of homes were standing empty in the Black Country and Staffordshire – including £67m across Cannock Chase.

Across the country more than 200,000 homes – with a total value of £43 billion – were empty for at least six months during 2016 despite a shortage of properties to rent and buy.

The latest figures are revealed in a report by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Councillor Allen said: "This is not council housing stock, as ours is among the best maintained in the country.

Loans

"The problem is private housing, and the fact so many of these properties are lying empty is perhaps a sign of the times. Much of the privately owned stock is derelict and needs a lot of money spending on it, and people just don't have the cash these days."

He said the council ran a scheme offering loans at reasonable rates to home owners who needed to bring their properties up to regulatory standards but only a handful of people had taken advantage of it.

Councillor Paul Woodhead, leader of the Green Party in Cannck Chase, described the figures as 'disappointing', echoing the housing chief's call to convert more empty properties into homes. He said: "We're looking where to build new dwellings on green belt and other areas that are valued by the community."

Fundraiser tickets sell like oatcakes

Richard Mottershead, county chairman, with the giant oatcake, and county president David Heminsley

A GIANT oatcake proved the centrepiece of a young farmers bash. More than 450 members, guests and supporters of Staffordshire Young Farmers Clubs attended a black-tie event, a major fundraiser for the federation, at the Ingestre Suite at the County Showground.

The theme was Under the YF Sea and the evening opened with county chairman Richard Mottershead welcoming guests by banging a trident while sitting in a giant clam. People clamoured to have photographs taken in the foyer against a design by Phillippa Bourne, a talented member of Stone Young Farmers Club.

County chairman Richard Mottershead officially launched his #oatcakeontour campaign, which will see a giant oat cake taken to 11 Staffordshire clubs. The oatcake was handed over for the first leg of its journey, which will raise funds for YoungMinds.

The Oatcake campaign will close with a charity beer festival at the County Showground at Stafford on June 30.

Toll firm to give grants

THE operators of the M6 Toll are launching their Schools Foundation Scheme from which pupils will benefit to the tune of thousands of pounds.

During 2018-19, the Midland Expressway Ltd (MEL) schools foundation panel will award three grants of £2,000 to primary schools.

MEL is urging schools to make their submissions before the May 11 deadline.

'Consider trying an apprenticeship'

AMANDA Milling has urged young people to consider apprenticeships as a way to kick-start their careers. The Cannock Chase Tory MP is backing the Government to deliver its target of three million new apprenticeships by 2020.

Since 2010, there have been 8,700 apprenticeship starts in Cannock Chase, 1,200 of which started in 2016-17.

Ms Milling said: "I am a strong advocate of apprenticeships. Over the last few years I have met many apprentices who have really benefited from the opportunities that an apprenticeship has offered them, not least the ability to learn a trade while earning money.

"I would strongly urge young people to consider an apprenticeship as a way of kick-starting their career."

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HS2 switch to leave dog rescue centre homeless

A DOG rescue centre near Rugeley will have to relocate to make way for HS2 after 21 years and huge investment.

Bosses at the Border Collie Trust (BCT), at Colton, say they will be forced to move before work starts on the high-speed network.

The trust, which bought the 4.5-acre countryside site for £200,000 in 1997 and has spent £800,000 on developing it will be forced to look for a new home.

An appeal has now been launched to raise money for the move. The trust rehomes between 400 and 500 dogs each year. Trustee Ben Wilkes, who has been involved in the centre since it opened, said: "We've been here for 21 years – it was an old boarding kennels.

Aaron Wootton-Smith with Fern at the Border Collie Trust's centre

Rerouted

"We have spent a lot of time, money and effort in rebuilding and setting an ideal situation for a specific breed of dog that is often very nervous, wary and noise sensitive. When HS2 was first announced, it was a bit of a concern. We were only going to be affected because we were next to the line. It wasn't directly taking any property."

The situation changed when revised plans for HS2 were unveiled last year.

Mr Wilkes said: "The plans came out, and it comes to light that Moor Lane is being rerouted and will come through our paddock.

"Not only we will lose 36 per cent of our land, but that road is going to be a construction route for three years, making it impossible to exercise the dogs. After a period of consideration, we had to make the decision that we can't operate from here."

The BCT, which employs 13 local people, is in the process of submitting a blight notice asking HS2 to consider buying the land and property because it is not feasible for it to continue.

Negotiations will take place if the notice is given the go-ahead, but it is not certain that HS2 bosses will accept – leaving the trust in financial limbo.

An HS2 spokesperson said: "We have visited Border Collie Trust and met with its representatives to look at the impact on their business and listen to their concerns. We also recognise that every situation is unique.

"That's why we have set up a package of property schemes, including property compensation and assistance measures, to assist affected landowners."

To find out more about the project, or to donate to the fund, go to www.bordercollietrustgb.homestead.com

Plea on dead dog found at roadside

THE RSPCA has launched an investigation after the body of a Jack Russell terrier was found dumped in a plastic box by the side of the road in Norton Canes.

The animal welfare charity was contacted by a vet to whom the animal was taken after a member of the public made the grim find at the corner of Hednesford Road and Bettys Lane. The animal had neither a collar nor ID tag.

RSPCA inspector Laura Baker, who is heading inquiries, said: "This must have been extremely upsetting for that person. The vet said the body was in a very poor state and that the dog – a young female – was very thin and her coat was crawling with fleas.

She Baker appealed to anyone who either saw anything suspicious in the area the weekend before last, recognises the dog or knows where it came from to contact the RSPCA on 0300 123 8018 and leave a message for her.

Riders ready to saddle up for free cycling programme

THE monthly Cycle Rides for All programme is back for 2018.

The first event, on Sunday, March 25, is a three-and-a-half mile Lichfield taster ride.

It signals the start of a series of seven free monthly cycle rides that take place from March to September.

Each month, riders cycle to a new destination, including around Lichfield and Burntwood, and to Fisherwick Lakes, Chasewater, the National Memorial Arboretum and Fradley Junction and back again. The rides are graded from Level 1, which are suitable for beginners, to Level 4, which are for more experienced cyclists.

Councillor Iain Eadie, Lichfield District Council's cabinet member for leisure, said: "All the bikes receive a quick safety check by Freedom Cycles before setting off, to make sure they are roadworthy.

"We also recommend that safety helmets are worn and that you bring a packed lunch and drink, although there is a café stop on most rides." Anyone who wants to join the Lichfield taster ride should turn up with their bike at the city's Beacon Park at 11am. This ride is graded Level 1, which means it is suitable for all including beginners. Under-16s must be accompanied by an adult.

To see the full Cycle Rides for All programme, visit www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/cyclerides

To find out more, call Lichfield District Council's parks team on 01543 308846.

Monarchy up for debate in contest

"THAT this House believes the British Monarchy should be abolished." That is the motion that will be proposed and opposed at a debating contest tomorrow (Friday).

Schools from Barton under Needwood, Lichfield and Burntwood will be competing for the Michael Fabricant and Arthur Price of England schools speaking competition.

Lichfield's Tory MP Mr Fabricant said: "The debate is held on Parliamentary lines and everyone is invited to join in the fun by waving order papers to show approval from the audience. Is the monarchy an institution of the past that has had its day or will a post-Brexit Britain gain from our modern monarchy? We all have our views, but this is an opportunity to hear from Britain's students where they think our future lies. The argument will be fascinating."

The competition takes place at the Guildhall, in Lichfield, at 6.30pm for a 7pm start. All are welcome.

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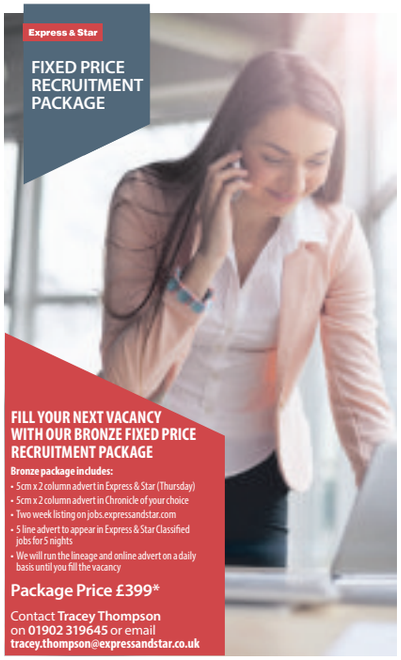

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Line-up for Gen-i Festival unveiled

THE line-up for a free one-day festival in Hednesford next weekend aimed at young people has been unveiled by the organisers.

The Gen-i Festival will boast live music from grime sensation Izzie Gibbs, indie acts Ivory Wave and Sugarthief, and Birmingham grime music veteran SOX. Compere is BBC WM presenter Jack Parker.

Other activities include gaming zones, a climbing wall, live interactive graffiti art and a 'skatejam' at Hednesford Park with pro skateboarder Alex Decunha.

The festival will take place in the grounds of the Museum of Cannock Chase and is part of an Arts Council England funded project, with additional funding from the Tesco Bags of Help Scheme, the AONB, The Coop, Staffordshire County Council's local community fund, and Cannock Chase Cultural Heritage Hub.

The festival is billed as an alcohol and drug free event, and also car-free, with a dedicated 'drop-off zone' at Tesco in Hednesford. Festival goers are being urged to use public transport and walk or cycle in an effort to raise awareness of environmental responsibility.

The festival is part of an initiative by the Museum of Cannock Chase around developing a youth strategy.

Youth engagement consultant James Davis said: "The event on Saturday, March 24 has the support of the local council and police, and a professional security team will be in place. Everyone's safety and enjoyment is paramount."

To register for free tickets visit www.eventbrite.co.uk and search Gen-i festival.

More information about the festival can be found on social media @genifestival

For further enquiries contact jimmy@soulfiremusic.co.uk or 07952 173455.

By David Banner

Ben is honoured in Commons ceremony

Ben Shaw is presented with a certificate of outstanding recognition from Andrew Griffiths, Minister for Small Business

AN apprentice kitchen manager from Cannock received a special accolade at the House of Commons.

Ben Shaw, who works at Toby Carvery in Norton Canes, was presented with a certificate of outstanding recognition from Andrew Griffiths, Minister for Small Business. He also met Cannock Chase MP Amanda Milling. He was among more than 100 apprentices, aged between 16 and 59, invited to attend the event marking National Apprenticeship Week, and one of only a handful to receive a certificate.

A delighted Ben, who lost more than 10st in his first year of work and now wants to open his own restaurant, said: "Every day I wake up with a bit more of a drive to do better in life. The passion of wanting to be better has made me work harder, more efficiently and has made me lose my weight. Instead of scrubbing the floor in 10 minutes, I'd do it in five. That intensity of going faster and harder made me lose my weight."

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£219**	£219	£19,049	£17,630	NIL	£9,595

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Glamping village to set up at Weston Park

LUXURY glamping and augmented reality will be introduced at Weston Park to make up for a year without the V Festival.

Marketing manager Andrea Webster said the team was now focused on introducing a number of new events throughout the year at the Staffordshire venue.

She said the temporary luxury glamping would feature wigwams and would be introduced in August, while the augmented reality computer feature will be launched for children in the summer holidays.

Plans for another event, based on an enchanted forest theme, are also scheduled for December.

Roseclaim, the company behind V, announced last week that it would be replacing it with the RiZE Festival, and that the new event would take place at just Hylands Park in Essex.

Councils counting cost of removing abandoned cars

THOUSANDS of abandoned vehicles have been dumped on the road-side in the past six years across Staffordshire and the Black Country, new figures reveal.

There were 254 cars dumped in the Cannock Chase district in the last six years and 629 in Stafford over the same period of time. District council bosses spent £2,050 on removing the vehicles, while in Stafford the cost amounted to £6,700.

Councillor Frank Finlay, cabinet member for environment and health at Stafford Borough Council, said: "Abandoned vehicles, along with other types of environmental crime, make our area untidy as well as being expensive to clean up.

Respect

"We have taken a zero tolerance approach to those who do not treat our borough with respect and fined around 240 people over the last 12 months for offences such as littering, fly-tipping and abandoning vehicles as part of our litter campaign."

In the Black Country, figures show there were 4,399 vehicles abandoned in Dudley, costing the local authority just under £35,000 since 2012. Last year, 936 were dumped while there were 1,148 the year before.

Some 3,063 abandoned vehicles were reported in Wolverhampton and 2,245 in Walsall over the six years. However, according to the data, neither authority spent any money on removals.

Campaign to help obese cut calories

MORE than 60 per cent of people in Cannock Chase and elsewhere in Staffordshire are said to be overweight or obese. Now Public Health England has launched a 'One You' campaign to help tackle the 'calorie creep'.

The health body says 64 per cent of West Midlands adults carry excess weight. In Cannock Chase the figure is 67.6 per cent and in Lichfield 62.9. For Staffordshire as a whole it is 65.6, and 63.4 per cent in South Staffordshire.

The campaign encourages people to aim for around 400 calories for breakfast, 600 for lunch and 600 for dinner, with couple of healthier snacks and drinks in-between.

Officials say this will help adults stay within their recommended daily intake of 2,000 for women and 2,500 for men.

Dr Lola Abudu, PHE West Midlands Director of Health and Wellbeing, said: "The tip can help people make healthier choices when eating and drinking on the go."

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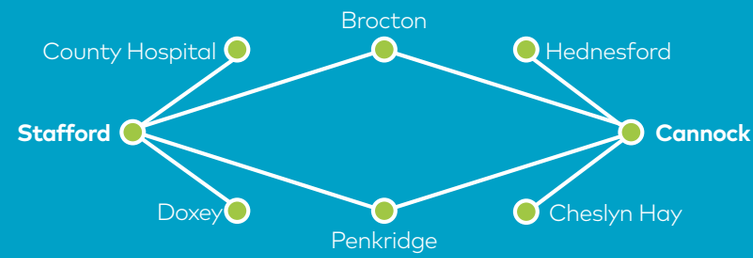

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Tarbuck provides entertainment

The Great Wyrley Carnival's Got Talent show contestants and judging panel

AN entertainer called Tarbuck impressed judges at the Great Wyrley Carnival's Got Talent competition.

Magician and illusionist Ricky Tarbuck, and his assistant, son Joe, collected a trophy and a £50 prize from carnival committee chairman Roy Vernals after winning the contest at Harrisons Sports & Social Club, Wharwell Lane.

Runner-up, musical theatre singer Lauren Hodson, aged 12, was awarded £25 prize money and a certificate. Due to illness, the weather and unforeseen circumstances only six contestants were able to compete, with one young girl entering on the night.

The judging panel comprised Amanda Evans, Leslie Morris, Andrew Franks and Ellen Mills, with Kath Perry acting as MC for the evening.

Car parts firm drives up profits

THE car parts group moving into a new factory in Four Ashes has unveiled rising profits as revenues topped £7.2 billion.

Gestamp, based in Spain, is currently building seven new plants worldwide, including the one in Staffordshire, and said its figures were driven by good performance across nearly all the regions where it operates.

The company is moving from its factory in Wolverhampton Road, Cannock, to a £110 million development at Four Ashes which will employ 800 people.

Volumes

Gestamp's CEO, Francisco López Peña, said: "The company benefits from high revenue visibility due to the nature of its business. In fact, our estimated volumes for order book covers more than 90 per cent of the targeted revenues for the period up to 2020."

Expansion has seen Gestamp's global workforce increase to more than 41,000 people in 21 countries, designing and manufacturing components for the automotive industry.

Earnings before tax in 2017 rose 4. per cent, to £428 million, while net income rose by 8.3 per cent to £212m.

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Home qualifies for 'a new generation of care'

Staff at Windsor House Care Home celebrate Dementia Care Framework accreditation

WINDSOR House Care Home in Hednesford has achieved accreditation to adopt a pioneering method of looking after people with dementia.

The new approach, called the Dementia Care Framework, uses advanced technology to help monitor dementia sufferers so that care can be adjusted to their changing needs.

All staff at the home in Littleworth Road have specialist training such as undergoing a simulated experience of living with the condition, to increase understanding and empathy. Windsor House is part of Four Seasons Health Care, which spent two years developing and testing the new approach.

Its purpose designed software programme is thought to be the first of its type worldwide. Updated electronically by care staff, it replaces paper-based audits that are slow and time consuming.

Dr Claire Royston, group medical director for Four Seasons, said: "Everyone working in the home has completed training, including an experience of what it is like to live with dementia. The experience simulates the sensory and cognitive impairments, the confusion and the frustrations and even the emotional effects.

"This is a new generation of dementia care. Sadly, we know that in the absence of a clinical cure it is a progressive condition, but with the right support the effects of dementia progression can be slowed and the person with dementia can enjoy a good life experience and be happy."

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Souvenir programme from the 1958 tour

The Gaumont where Buddy Holly performed

Buddy Holly on stage at Birmingham Town Hall on March 10, 1958

Oh Boy! That'll be the day that fans remember

Memorabilia from the 1958 tour

WHEN Buddy Holly performed at The Gaumont Cinema in Wolverhampton 60 years ago his career was on the crest of a wave.

Excited fans turned out to see the new American rock 'n' roll phenomenon, still only 21, on his first – and as it tragically turned out, his last – UK tour which took in the city venue.

His performances wowed devotees. In the audience at Birmingham Town Hall three nights afterwards was 12-year-old John Lodge, who later said: "Buddy Holly was the person who made me understand that I could be a musician. He was incredible."

The following decade Lodge rose to fame as bass player with The Moody Blues along with fellow Holly fan Justin Hayward.

In celebration of the 60th anniversary of the star's visit, tribute act Buddy Holly and the Cricketers will perform with the English Rock and Roll Orchestra at 22 venues across the UK – including the Wolverhampton gig – the exact date Holly himself played six decades ago.

Organisers tried to book the same venues on the same dates but the Gaumont, on the corner of Snow Hill and St George's Parade, was knocked down in 1973.

MEMORY LANE

Report by Marion Brennan

Meters

The site is now occupied by a Wilkinson's store, so instead the gig was staged last week at the Grand Theatre. There are no known pictures of Holly's visit to Wolverhampton and few accounts of his two shows that day.

But it is known the singer and his band, bassist Joe Maudlin and drummer Jerry Allison, stayed at the Victoria Hotel, now the Britannia, next to the Grand after their second performance.

Mauldin recalled the bedrooms in the Victoria Hotel were large with high ceilings, which meant they were quite cold. He said: "We were continually putting coins into the gas meters for the fires."

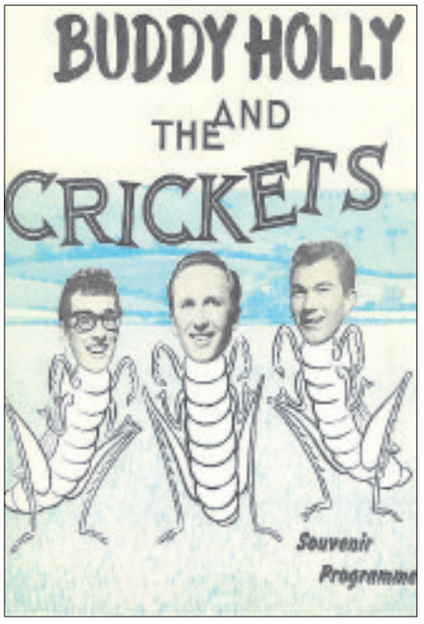
The visit was researched 10 years ago by Walsall historian Ian Payne on the 50th anniversary of the legend's performance in the town. It lead to the book, The Day that Buddy Came to Town, which is now available in the Wolverhampton Archives.

Mr Payne said: "I wanted to make a lasting tribute, partly because my parents were keen Buddy Holly fans and partly after being inspired by a musical tribute to him several years ago.

"I'm delighted the 60th anniversary is being marked in this way and it's poignant they are keeping to the exact dates he performed on his tour.

"He made a mark on this region and it's clear his fans loved him."

A programme from the 1958 tour reveals Holly's appearance was part of a variety-style show compered by a young Des O'Connor.



Souvenir programme from the 1958 tour

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Appeal to find dog walkers

Ready for walkies

A DOG owner is looking for help to walk their pet.

The Cinnamon Trust, the national charity for the elderly and terminally ill and their pets, is looking for volunteers to help walk six-year-old Westie Freddie in Cheslyn Hay and other dogs in the region.

The charity seeks to keep owners and pets together for as long as possible with the help of a national network of volunteers who assist when day to day care poses a problem. Volunteers help in ways that are most appropriate to them such as taking dogs for a walk, fostering, taking pets to the vets andcleaning out budgie cages and litter trays.

To register or find out more call 01736 758707 or email sallycollins@cinnamon.org.uk or tressaherriott@cinnamon.org.uk

MP's bus cuts petition sparks hypocrisy claim

SOUTH Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson has been accused of 'hypocrisy' over cuts to bus services across the county.

Staffordshire County Council Labour group leader Councillor Sue Woodward made the claim in the wake of a petition set up by the Conservative MP opposing cuts to services.

The National Express 154 service between Hednesford and Wolverhampton, which ran through Featherstone, in Mr Williamson's constituency, and also served the i54 Business Park, has been scrapped. Arriva has also announced it will drop all Sunday services serving Cannock and Stafford from April 1.

Defence Secretary Mr Williamson has now launched a petition against bus service cuts made by the Tory-run county council.

Councillor Woodward said Mr Williamson needed to be honest with his constituents. She said: "Staffordshire County Council is wrong to be cutting bus services that so many people in Staffordshire rely on.

"But the rank hypocrisy of Gavin Williamson in creating a petition to oppose these cuts beggars belief.

Austerity

"A Tory MP and one of Theresa May's most senior ministers, opposing cuts made by a Tory council, dealing with the consequences of seven years of austerity handed down from a Tory government. You couldn't make it up.

"It just goes to show that he'll say one thing in Staffordshire, and do another when he's down in Westminster.

"It's time for Gavin Williamson to be honest with the people of Staffordshire – he'll keep on voting for the cuts, and it's only a Labour Government and Council that will stop the cuts."

Award success at double for company

Tom Hill, left, and Kristian Povey with their awards

A CANNOCK company claimed two prizes at an awards ceremony. ATP Industries Group Ltd's Tom Hill won the Intermediate Apprentice of the Year while Kristian Povey took the Rising Star accolade at the Performance Through People Awards at Walsall's Village Hotel.

Adrian Aston, Technical Director of ATP, said "IWe are all so proud of what Kris and Tom have achieved and can really see how they have developed."

Around 90 guests listened to success stories from apprentices and employers. Awards were given to PTP's longest serving employees who had been with the training provider for up to 20 years – totalling 145 years of experience.

One of PTP's previous apprentices, Frankie Moore, introduced the awards along with operations director Carolyn Stokes and business development director Gill Durkin. Guests were entertained by a guitarist and magician while board members John Punch, Kevin Davis and Jane Preece presented the different awards.

Beer festival

BEER and cider enthusiasts can enjoy up to 15 real ales and five ciders from the UK and overseas at a 12-day festival at The Linford Arms in High Green, Cannock, and Hedgeford Lodge in Anglesey Street, Hednesford, until Sunday, March 25.

Scheme to help staff

MORE than 17,000 workers in Lichfield are benefiting from a new pension scheme.

The Pensions Regular says 1,410 businesses in the Lichfield constituency, which includes Burntwood, have enrolled in the scheme, benefiting 17,000 workers.

It means employers must enrol staff aged 22 and over who earn more than £10,000 into a pension.

Royal approval for uni's national award

STAFFORDSHIRE University has won a national award for its new degree apprenticeship in Healthcare Science.

The university's biological sciences department, which launched the healthcare science practitioner degree apprenticeship last year, received the Excellence in Education Delivery prize at the Chief Scientific Officer's Healthcare Science Awards. The annual awards celebrate scientists working across the NHS and this year's event was attended by Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal.

Ian Davies, lecturer in biomedical science, said: "Her Royal Highness was interested to hear of our work to widen participation in Higher Education through degree apprenticeships."

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Company steps forward to help size 17 Big Ben

A GRASSROOTS rugby player who struggled to find boots to fit his enormous size 17 feet has been handed a custom-made pair by Adidas.

The amazing hand-out came after the brand learned of Ben Kibble-Spencer's cry for help, through his family, his local club and the Rugby Football Union (RFU).

The bespoke red and white boots Adidas created for the teenager, who plays in the second row, were even presented to him by England and Leicester Tigers' scrum half Ben Youngs.

The 17-year-old, from Kings Bromley, who is in his fifth season with Barton-under-Needwood Rugby Club, has earned the nickname Big Ben – both for his towering stature, of 6ft 7in, and the size of his feet.

Involved

But he had been forced to play in American football boots that were held together with duct tape and were 'ridiculously heavy'. Now he's looking forward to playing in comfort.

England player Ben Youngs said he heard about Ben's dilemma and wanted to help. Ben's mother Vicky Kibble-Spencer said: "We had been trying to get a new size 17 pair of rugby boots for our Big Ben but with no joy. So, we contacted RFU for help who in turn contacted Adidas and both the club and Ben's coach Kev Denver also got involved in helping.

"Thank you to everyone involved, it's meant such a lot to him.."

Ben said: "A lot of people have worked behind the scenes to achieve this, and I'm very grateful. It's just nice to have a pair of boots that fit."

Barton-under-Needwood Rugby Club will soon be merging with Cannock and Colton under 18s Club.

Ben Kibble-Spencer is given the boot by Ben Youngs

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Marathon walk is a real life-saver

Peter Knox with Jenny Christian, left, and Mariel Bishop on board the narrowboat with the defibrillator

MANY put their best foot forward in aid of a good cause, but few go to the lengths of 64-year-old Peter Knox. He walked 1,400 miles – raising £1 for each one – on a 55-day marathon from John O'Groats to Lands End, camping out almost every night.

And in a big-hearted gesture he gave the money to buy a defibrillator for the Troman Enterprise Narrowboat Trust, which takes the elderly and the disabled people for trips along the waterways.

There was even a few hundred pounds left to help cover maintenance and other costs at the trust's headquarters at the Hatherton Marina in Calf Heath. Retired Mr Knox, a long-time friend and former work colleague of Mariel Bishop who is a volunteer skipper for the charity, said: "I had always wanted to do the walk, and knew I had to do it sooner rather than later. I thought I would enjoy it better if there was a purpose. I mentioned that I intended to raise money but needed a specific cause rather than just adding it to the funds of a large charity.

He completed the walk in April and May last year, and the defibrillator was presented on Saturday.

Ms Bishop said: "We are all eternally grateful to him. It is a vital bit of kit." Mr Knox, who lives in Bromsgrove, added: "If this defibrillator helps to save just one life I will be over the moon."

Dental surgery plan

Planning applications received by Lichfield District Council include:

Boora Newsagents And Post Office, 5 Cannock Road, Chase Terrace – change of use from post office (A1) to dental surgery (D1), including single-storey extension to rear to form office and store room and installation of rear parking area.

Edial Farm Cottage, Edial Farm Mews, Lichfield Road, Burntwood – conversion of existing barn to form one five-bedroom dwelling house.

Sherracop, Newlands Lane, Stockwell Heath – change of use of domestic outbuildings to form one one-bedroom dwelling and one three-bedroom dwelling.

14 Princess Street, Burntwood – conversion of existing detached double garage to form granny annexe.

66 Park Road, Alrewas – various works to 17 trees and hedgerows on site.

Tennal House, Roman Road, Little Aston – alterations to gate and fence at entrance of property.

Comments on any of the applications must be received by the council by April 2.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Coastline wildlife is the topic of talk

THE Cannock group of the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust host an illustrated talk on the 'Glorious Natural History of Britain's Wild Coastline' by David Hollis on Wednesday, March 21, at 7.30pm at St Luke's Church Centre, Cannock.

Admission is £2 which includes refreshments. Parking is free.

Mini-market with an Easter theme

GREAT Wyrley Wesley Methodist Church, in Walsall Road, Great Wyrley, is holding a mini-market on Saturday from 10.30am to midday.

Various stalls will be set up, with an Easter theme, including a raffle, bric-a-brac, tombola, groceries, cakes and local crafts. Refreshments will be available. Admission is free.

Women workers at council paid less

WOMEN working at Walsall Council are paid over 10 per cent less an hour than men, figures have revealed.

Data at March 31, 2017, shows the average hourly rate for women employed by the council was 11.36 per cent lower than men. Councillor Keith Chambers said the analysis 'provides a valuable point of reference'.

Fair to have 26 stalls

A TABLE TOP fair is being held at St Luke's Church Centre in Cannock on Saturday from 10am to 1pm. There are 26 stallholders and a cafe open throughout the day. For details call the church office on 01543 502131.

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They're still just like nothing on Earth

Punk icons The Stranglers are back on the road following the sell-out success of last year's Black and White Tour. They are taking their Classic Collection around the UK, to coincide with the planned re-release of the entire Stranglers studio album catalogue from 1977-82.

Fans can look forward to a slew of greatest hits when the band headline Birmingham's O2 Academy on Saturday, March 17. It's a show that The Stranglers are also looking forward to.

Bassist Jean-Jacques Burnel says: "We've had some amazing times in the Black Country and Birmingham and around and about. We always have a great time when we're on the road and it's always sold out when we play in Brum. Our drummer, Jim, lives in that neck of the woods.

"We've got a very loyal audience but there's also a sense of renewal of the audience. People who've grown up with us and remember times past are still there.

"They remember the problems of us being a young punk band. It seems to be that for some reason a lot of teenagers are also starting to check us out over the past 10 years. You know, with the last three albums, people have really picked up on us again.

"Also, all the bad press that we had all those years ago seems to be a badge of honour because everything is so cynical and phoney these days. All the bad times are now a badge of honour. It's funny. We were the threat to western civilisation and morality and now we're seen as a healthy thing because the music scene is all so sterile."

Drawing from an expansive and impressive catalogue that spans some 40 years, The Stranglers will enthral audiences with an exciting mix of material, all bearing the distinctive signature style of this most enduring of British bands; driving rhythms, anthemic melodies, quirky time signatures and occasional dark humour, held together by those trademark rumbling bass lines and swirling keyboards.

No more heroes – The Stranglers are heading to Birmingham

WAVE

The Stranglers are riding high on the crest of a resurgent wave of popularity. They continue to out-rock many on the live circuit, including much younger bands, and their existing large and loyal fan base has swelled in recent years as new converts join the ranks.

With record-breaking, sell-out shows and festival appearances throughout the UK and the rest of the world, public demand to hear and see the group has never been so high; true testament to their considerable musical talent and the enduring quality of their songs.

JJ says it's been a struggle and they're thrilled to be winning the war.

"Well, we've been used to wars from day one. We didn't have a ready-made audience in the very early days. Even when we were playing pubs we were having confrontations with the landlord calling the police to pull the plug.

"In the very early days, people were also getting offended by what we were playing. We had people try to get on stage and whack us. We had, once, an agent who booked us for one show. They booked us for a Young Conservatives night in Purley, in South London.

"We were dressed in rags and tatters and there were all these people in smoking jackets and suits and bow ties. It was evidently obvious that we weren't going to get on with each other.

"Jet went on stage and said you're not going to like us and there was a bit of language. So one guy came up on stage with a bow tie but we kicked him off stage and 400 people left the hall, leaving five who thought we were brilliant. I think we did play for the five to get our fee."

JJ is pleased that the band's recorded output from an imperious late 1970s and early 1980s is being re-aired.

"It was a very intense and fast period from having overnight been the pariahs and then breaking all kinds of records and selling records and having an audience who wanted to see us rather than murder us. It was very creative for us back then. We were just writing all the time.

"There was pent up frustration and energy and we wanted to explore our potential. We weren't satisfied. Suddenly we had a bit of a hit, we wanted to go further. We wanted to see what we could as artists, what we could do. As our experiences expanded and our horizon, so did our attempts to try and improve.

"In the first 18 months we had three albums out, all top three. The first three years were really slow and doubts crept into our mind about doing the right thing. Then things happened suddenly but overnight it changed. We were living off Paxo sage and onion stuffing when no girlfriend meant no food or drink."

Remarkably, the band are more popular than ever. And they have offers to tour the world. The band pick and choose what they want to do – turning down things that are too much bother.

"We have to decide whether we want to go somewhere. Every time we turn down the USA they double the offer. There are a few places we're not too keen on going to. The Americans want you to queue up for the American embassy and be interrogated about why we want to go there. You can't make a joke. So we don't accept the offers."

Andy Richardson

The bad press that we had all those years ago is a badge of honour

● **For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.**

Edgelarks Photo: Elly Lucas

Life on the Edge with one of the UK's top folk duos

One of Britain's leading folk music duos are performing at a village church on the edge of the Black Country this weekend.

Edgelarks, who are Phillip Henry and Hannah Martin, have just received their third nomination in the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards. They won the top duo award in 2014 and were nominated again in 2016.

The pair's new project takes the roots of their previous work – from the traditional musics of the British Isles to Indian classical slide guitar and Phillip's stomping beatbox harmonica – and adds a strong stem of original writing.

Edgelarks, which was one of MOJO's top ten folk albums of 2017, is Phillip and Hannah's most innovative work to date. As well as being their fourth studio album, it also marks the genesis of a brand new band name.

From recording their first album, Singing the Bones, at home in their living room in the dead of night, they have gone on to produce three more records – Mynd, Live in Calstock and Watershed – each time refining the process and honing their production skills.

Edgelarks appropriately will be performing near Kinver Edge, at St Peter's Church in Kinver, on Saturday at 8pm. Tickets cost £13. See www.edgelarks.co.uk or call 07503 191825 for details.

But fans of Irish folk will no doubt be at Birmingham Town Hall that night for The Dublin Legends – Sean Cannon, Eamonn Campbell, Paul Watchorn and Gerry O'Connor – playing favourites by The Dubliners.

Crying for Evita as blockbuster returns

Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's Evita is thrilling audiences once again across the UK.

Telling the story of Eva Peron, wife of former Argentine dictator Juan Peron, Evita follows Eva's journey from humble beginnings through to extraordinary wealth, power and iconic status.

Madalena Alberto returns to the role of Eva, for which she received critical acclaim in the 2014 West End revival. Her other credits include the role of Fantine in the 25th anniversary production of Les Misérables.

Evita is one of the most popular musicals including the songs Don't Cry For Me Argentina, On This Night of a Thousand Stars, You Must Love Me and Another Suitcase in Another Hall.

Other theatre highlights to look out for include comic alternative history from Told By An Idiot with Napoleon Disrobed at Birmingham Rep's studio theatre The Door from tonight (Thursday) to Saturday. At Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre are masked drama group Vamos Theatre with A Brave Face tonight and tomorrow, and comedy chaos for all the family with The 4 Clowns of the Apocalypse on Tuesday.

Ex-Strictly Come Dancing pro Brendan Cole brings his All Night Long show to Symphony Hall in Birmingham tomorrow (Friday) and Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre on Tuesday. Contemporary dance fans will head to Birmingham Hippodrome on Friday and Saturday for Ballet British Columbia, Canada's leading modern dance company. There will be Asian dance at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre on Saturday when Jaivant Patel Dance present Holi: Basant Ke Rang, a celebration of spring dedicated to the memory of Wolverhampton Mayor Elias Mattu.

Paloma on way to the Genting

POP star Paloma Faith returns to the West Midlands following the success of her fourth album, The Architect, with a concert at the Genting Arena on Wednesday, March 13. Hackney-born Paloma, 36, who recently became a mother, is known for hits Changing, Only Love Can Hurt Like This, Picking Up The Pieces, New York, Never Tear Us Apart, Crybaby and Stone Cold Sober. Support from XamVolo. Paloma is back for Forest Live at Cannock Chase on June 29.

'Elvis' back in the building, 50 years on

Fifty years ago Elvis Presley's career was revived by the '68 Comeback Special, a one-off television show aired by American network NBC, and to celebrate that milestone theatre impresario Bill Kenwright brings tribute show This Is Elvis to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre.

From Monday to Saturday, the touring show will recreate that classic concert and the drama leading up to it with award-winning tribute artist Steve Michaels in the role of Elvis. Steve has played alongside some of Elvis Presley's iconic band mates including the extraordinary Jordanaires and the soulful voices of the Sweet Inspirations.

This Is Elvis includes such hits as Trouble, Heartbreak Hotel, Blue Suede Shoes, Hound Dog, Jailhouse Rock, In The Ghetto and Suspicious Minds.

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SATURDAY'S TV MARCH 17

CHOICE

Will.i.am

The Voice UK (ITV, 8.30pm)

It's the first of the knockout shows as 12 acts sing for a place in the semi-finals. Coaches Jennifer Hudson, Will.i.am, Tom Jones and Olly Murs can pick only one act from their teams to progress in the competition, so there are some tough decisions to make. Helping them are guests Craig David, members of the Black Eyed Peas, Kylie Minogue, Leona Lewis and The Voice UK's reigning champion, Mo Jamil.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Classic Mary Berry. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** MasterChef. (R) **2.15** MasterChef. (R) **3.15** MasterChef. (R) **3.45** Wanted Down Under Revisited. **4.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Wales v France (Kick-off 5.00pm).

7.00 BBC News.

7.10 Regional Programme.

7.20 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman welcome Sam Nixon and Mark Rhodes, Ellie Taylor and Milton Jones, Jay Rayner and Thomasina Miers, and Paul Martin and Sara Pascoe to the general knowledge quiz. The famous faces must try to come up with the least likely correct answers to a series of questions posed to members of the public.

8.10 Casualty. Rash's new-found confidence is tested when he treats a prisoner, who also leads Gem into danger. Bea goes up against smarmy F1 Eddie for a place on a coveted training course.

9.00 Troy: Fall of a City. Paris finds himself on the run as a fugitive, hunted by Greek forces intent on avenging the slight that sparked the flames of war. Seeking a safe refuge, he returns to his shepherd roots and the hills where he grew up. Meanwhile, back in Troy, Helen is left without a single ally as Pandarus's investigation gathers momentum, and the Trojans try to exploit divisions among the Greeks. Historical epic, starring Louis Hunter, Jonas Armstrong, Bella Dayne, David Threlfall, David Gyasi and Joseph Mawle.

10.00 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.20 Match of the Day. Highlights of Bournemouth v West Bromwich Albion, Huddersfield Town v Crystal Palace, Stoke City v Everton and Liverpool v Watford in the Premier League.

11.20 MOTD: FA Cup Highlights. Highlights of Swansea City v Tottenham Hotspur at the Liberty Stadium and Manchester United v Brighton & Hove Albion at Old Trafford.

11.50 Film: Gambit. (2012) Comedy remake, starring Colin Firth, Cameron Diaz and Alan Rickman.

1.10 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 The Wonder of Animals. (R) **6.40** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. (R) **7.10** The Pets Factor. **7.30** The Dengineers. **8.00** Absolute Genius: Monster Builds. **8.30** Beyond Bionic. **9.00** Robot Wars. (R) **10.00** Gorilla Family and Me. (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.35** Cats v Dogs: Which Is Best? (R) **12.35** Orson Welles: Talking Pictures. (R) **1.20 Film:** Waterloo. (1970) **3.30** Me and My Dog: The Ultimate Contest. (R) **4.30** Final Score. **5.30** The Repair Shop. (R)

6.00 Hugh's Wild West. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall explores the Somerset Levels, where he visits Worthy Farm, home to Glastonbury Festival, before heading to the Secret World Rescue Centre.

7.00 Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby. Giles Coren and Monica Galetti head to the foothills of the Swiss Alps to experience health and wellness tourism at the Grand Resort Bad Ragaz. (R)

8.00 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. The naturalist investigates whether animals and plants have developed an awareness of mathematics, including bamboos that flower exactly the same around the world.

8.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring and the platoon are asked to provide a guard of honour for a train carrying George VI passing through Walmington-on-Sea. (R)

9.00 Film: Suite Francaise. (2014) Premiere. Passion develops between a woman and the Nazi officer stationed in her home during Germany's occupation of France. Second World War drama, starring Kristin Scott Thomas.

10.40 Performance Live: Winged Bull in the Elephant Case. An immersive performance, combining dance choreographed by Wayne McGregor and others with music and spoken word, filmed underground and in London's National Gallery.

11.10 Film: Defiance. (2008) Three Jewish brothers escape into the woods during the 1939 Nazi invasion of Poland, and launch a series of guerrilla attacks on German forces. As word of their actions spreads, other refugees join them to form a larger resistance movement. Second World War drama, starring Daniel Craig.

1.15 Civilisations. (R) **2.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Bagel and Becky Show. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Wishfart. (R) **9.25** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.20** Britain's Brightest Family. (R) **11.50** ITV News; Weather. **12.00** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Italy v Scotland (Kick-off 12.30pm). **2.25** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. England v Ireland (Kick-off 2.45pm). **5.00** The Chase. (R)

6.00 ITV News; Weather.

6.15 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.30 New You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, including footage of a golfer being surprised by an alligator, and a child being fired into a belfry.

7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. George Ezra opens the show with a performance of his new hit, as well as joining Ant and Dec on stage for the End of The Show Show. Ashley and Jordan Banjo from dance troupe Diversity are pushed to their limits in the return of Get Out Of My Ear! Stephen Mulhern and Scarlett Moffatt join in the fun, and another player gets the chance to Win the Ads.

8.30 The Voice UK. The first of the knockout shows as 12 acts sing for a place in the semi-finals. Guests include Craig David, members of the Black Eyed Peas and Kylie Minogue.

10.30 ITV News; Weather.

10.45 Film: Fast & Furious. (2009) News of a friend's murder brings international fugitive Dominic Toretto back to his home city of Los Angeles in search of revenge. It is not long before his pursuit leads him to cross paths with FBI agent Brian O'Conner, and despite their hostile feelings toward each other, the pair work together to bring down those responsible. Thriller sequel, starring Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Michelle Rodriguez and Jordana Brewster.

12.45 Play to the Whistle. (R) **1.30** Jackpot247. **3.00** Babushka. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Winter Paralympics Live. **8.00** Winter Paralympics Breakfast. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25 Film:** Casper. (1995) Supernatural family comedy, starring Christina Ricci. **3.20** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.25** The Secret Life of the Zoo. (R) **5.30** Winter Paralympics Today.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Penelope Keith's Coastal Villages. The actress discovers the idyllic coastal villages of East Anglia. She travels by train to the Edwardian holiday resort of Weybourne, and goes dredging at Cley next the Sea. Penelope also hears a scandalous take in Stiffkey, and heads to Thorpeness, Suffolk, to visit a village inspired by the tale of Peter Pan. Finally, she takes in the ancient settlement of Dunwich and ends her journey at Walberswick.

8.00 Britain at Low Tide. Tori Herridge explores the Severn Estuary, visiting the site of a medieval village that disappeared into the sea and finding out how important the ferry crossing at Aust once was.

9.00 Film: Fantastic Four. (2015) Premiere. A gifted young scientist joins a secret project researching inter-dimensional travel, and return from a journey to another world granted superhuman powers. Their abilities make them the only hope for Earth's survival when a colleague who was lost on their expedition returns to wreak vengeance. Superhero adventure, starring Miles Teller, Michael B Jordan, Kate Mara and Jamie Bell.

10.55 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jon Richardson and Michelle Wolf take on guest captain Jonathan Ross with Johnny Vegas, while three-man comedy act Pappy's helps out in Dictionary Corner. Last in the series. (R)

11.55 The Inbetweeners. The friends prepare for their exams. Simon makes progress with Carli by helping her revise, and the gang members get together to reminisce about the past year. Last in the series. (R)

12.30 Winter Paralympics Live. **5.35** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.05** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.30** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **3.30** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **4.30** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.25** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.25 5 News Weekend.

6.30 FIA Formula E Live. The Punta del Este ePrix. Vernon Kay presents coverage of the sixth round of the campaign, which is held in Punta del Este, Uruguay.

8.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Documentary giving an insight into cash-strapped Britain from the perspectives of debtors, creditors and those who collect the payments, including High Court enforcement bailiffs and repossession teams. The series follows each case as it unfolds, recording the thoughts and feelings on both sides, the process of repossession and the impact it has on all involved. (R)

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. Colin Murray introduces highlights of the weekend's games, including Leeds United v Sheffield Wednesday at Elland Road, Barnsley v Millwall at Oakwell, Wolverhampton Wanderers v Burton Albion at Molineux and Bolton Wanderers v Aston Villa at the Macron Stadium.

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including Oxford United v Peterborough United and Rochdale v AFC Wimbledon.

10.30 Live: Hayemaker Fight Night. Matt Askin v Stephen Simmons and Joe Joyce v Donnie Palmer. Coverage of the respective cruiserweight and heavyweight bouts, which take place at the York Hall in Bethnal Green.

12.00 SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** Cowboy Builders. (R) **4.45** House Doctor. A compilation edition of the home improvement series, with interior designer Ann Maurice revisits some of her most striking transformations of kitchens and dining rooms. (R) **5.10** House Busters. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Lost Kingdoms of Central America **8.00** The Silk Road **9.00** Below the Surface **10.30** TOTP2 **11.15** Irish Rock at the BBC **12.15** Top of the Pops: 1985 **1.15** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **2.15** The Silk Road **3.15** TOTP2 **4.00** Close

ITV2

11.45 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **1.20 Film:** License to Wed (2007) **2.25** FYI Daily **2.30 Film:** License to Wed (2007) **3.05 Film:** Dirty Dancing 2: Havana Nights (2004) **4.10** FYI Daily **4.15 Film:** Dirty Dancing 2: Havana Nights (2004) **4.55 Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **5.55** FYI Daily **6.00 Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **6.50 Film:** Gravity (2013) **7.55** FYI Daily **8.00 Film:** Gravity (2013) **8.30 Film:** Pacific Rim (2013) **9.30** FYI Daily **9.35 Film:** Pacific Rim (2013) **11.10** Family Guy **12.10** American Dad! **1.05** Action Team **1.35** Ibiza Weekender **2.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

1.10 Inspector Morse **3.25 Film:** Columbo: Playback (1975) **5.00** Vera **7.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Inspector Morse **1.10** The Good Karma Hospital **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

1.30 ITV Racing Live from Uttoxeter. **4.00 Film:** How the West Was Won (1962) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10 Film:** How the West Was Won (1962) **7.10** Storage Wars **8.00 Film:** Jaws: The Revenge (1987) **9.05** FYI Daily **9.10 Film:** Jaws: The Revenge (1987) **9.50 Film:** Wanted (2008) **10.55** FYI Daily **11.00 Film:** Wanted (2008) **12.00 Film:** The Dictator (2012) **1.00** FYI Daily **1.05 Film:** The Dictator (2012) **1.45** Minder **2.35** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.15 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **12.30** The Goldbergs **1.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.00** Young Sheldon **2.30** The Big Bang Theory **4.00** The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer **5.15** Extreme Cake Makers **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** The World's End (2013) **11.10** Gogglebox **12.15** Five Star Hotel **3.20** Timeless **4.05** How I Met Your Mother **4.45** Rude(ish) Tube

Film4

11.00 Rio (2011) **1.00** Step Up All In (2014) **3.10** Hulk (2003) **5.50** Avatar (2009) **9.00** R.I.P.D (2013) **10.55** The Pyramid (2014) **12.40** Citadel (2012) **2.20** Maniac (2012) **4.00** Close

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SUNDAY'S TV MARCH 18

CHOICE

Keeley Hawes

The Durrells (ITV, 8pm)

New series. In the first episode of a new series, the family are surprised to find out that Leslie has three different girlfriends, so Louisa decides to take it upon herself to help him pick one by having each member of the family invite their favourite girl to afternoon tea. Larry injures his leg and Theo decides to use his newly set-up x-ray unit to try and examine it. Elsewhere, Gerry continues to grow his animal collection, Margo takes up a job as Theo's assistant, and Aunt Hermione arrives in Corfu for good.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.25** Match of the Day. (R) **8.30** MOTD: FA Cup Highlights. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Lifeline. **12.25** Songs of Praise. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** MOTD Live: The FA Cup. Wigan Athletic v Southampton (Kick-off 1.30pm). **3.35** A Question of Sport. (R) **4.05** MOTD Live: The FA Cup. Leicester City v Chelsea (Kick-off 4.30pm).

6.35 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison travels to Pembrokeshire to assess the effects of recent storms on the area's coastline. Adam Henson visits Scotland's Rural College to look at the latest research into reducing farming's impact on global warming, while Tom Heap looks at declining sales in lamb, and learns about the problems this has caused for the UK's sheep farmers.

8.00 Hold the Sunset. Bob suggests that Roger apply to become his mother's paid carer – but the only problem is that she is in perfect health, so he needs someone more in need of support to pose as her.

8.30 Film: Brooklyn. (2015) Premiere. An Irish woman living with her mother in the 1950s decides to make a fresh start in America. She makes her home in New York, and falls in love. However, her past catches up with her when she receives bad news from Ireland, and faces a harsh choice between her two homes. Drama based on Colm Toibin's novel, starring Saoirse Ronan, Domhnall Gleeson, Jim Broadbent and Julie Walters.

10.10 BBC News.

10.30 Regional Programme.

10.40 Paddy McGuinness' Sport Relief Warm Up. The host rows, walks and jogs from his home to the Sport Relief studio in Salford, and along the way looks at highlights from past events and offers previews of Sport Relief 2018.

11.40 Film: The Sentinel. (2006) A secret service agent is framed for murder as he tries to expose a neo-Nazi militant who has infiltrated the White House. Spy thriller, with Michael Douglas and Kiefer Sutherland.

1.20 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Coast. (R) **7.05** The Instant Gardener. (R) **7.50** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.20** Countryfile. (R) **9.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.45** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) **11.30** Lorraine Pascale: How to Be a Better Cook. (R) **12.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **12.45** The Ladykillers: Pest Detectives. (R) **1.45** Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago. (R) **2.45** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.45** The World's Most Extraordinary Homes. (R) **4.45** Back in Time for Tea. (R) **5.45 Film:** Catch Me If You Can. (2002) Fact-based drama, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hanks.

8.00 Top Gear. Matt LeBlanc tests the world's fastest-accelerating car, with a little help from NASA. Chris Harris pens a heartfelt love letter to the Citroen 2CV, while Rory Reid samples some exciting cars from South Korea. Dara O Briain and Ed Byrne are the studio guests.

9.00 Famously Unfit for Sport Relief. Entertainer Les Dennis, presenter Susannah Constantine, actress Tameka Empson and comedian Miles Jupp embark on a muscle-grinding mission to regain their fitness. Cameras follow the foursome over a 10-week period as they run, climb and swim their way back to fitness, culminating in one of the UK's hardest and most demanding physical challenges – which sees the quartet tackle a muddy and exhausting assault course in freezing temperatures. The programme also features visits to two projects in the UK, illustrating some of the ways in which money raised through the fund helps vulnerable people.

10.00 The Mash Report. Nish Kumar and a cast of comedy correspondents present the satirical and surreal take on the week's news. (R)

10.30 Top Gear: Extra Gear. Rory Reid puts his engineering skills to the challenge of building a rear wheel drive car. With guests touring car champion Chris Turkington and comedian Brennan Reece.

10.55 Women's Six Nations Highlights. Action from the final round of fixtures, which were England v Ireland at the Ricoh Arena, Wales v France at Parc Eirias and Italy v Scotland at the Stadio Plebiscito.

11.25 Film: Being Blacker. (2018)

12.55 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **1.55** Holby City. (R) **2.55** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Spy School. **9.05** Scrambled!: Wishfart. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Love Your Garden. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **10.55** The Voice UK. (R) **12.55** ITV News; Weather. **1.00** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. (R) **2.30** What Would Your Kid Do? (R) **3.30** The Harbour. (R) **4.00** Tipping Point. (R) **5.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R)

6.00 Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs. An abandoned puppy is brought in with a skin condition that is so severe the vets are unable to determine its breed, and Paul tries to prepare his dog for a neutering operation. (R)

6.30 ITV News; Weather.

6.45 Regional Programme; Weather.

7.00 Celebrity Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts a celebrity special of the guessing game, challenging Chris Kamara, Stacey Solomon and Catherine Tyldesley to see it and say it.

8.00 The Durrells. New series. In the first episode of a new series, the family are surprised to find out that Leslie has three different girlfriends, and Aunt Hermione arrives in Corfu for good.

9.00 The Good Karma Hospital. New series. Ruby encounters new challenges as a blistering heatwave hits Kerala, while Lydia decides she is ready for her first solo night shift. But when a storm hits Barco, Ruby faces an agonising test that stretches her medical skills to the limits. Return of the medical drama set in southern India, starring Amrita Acharia and Amanda Redman.

10.05 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Peston on Sunday. (R)

11.15 Six Nations Highlights. Jill Douglas presents action from the final round of fixtures, featuring England v Ireland, Wales v France and Italy v Scotland.

12.10 Marcella. (R) **1.00** Jackpot247. **3.00** Take on the Twisters. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **6.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.25** Mobil 1: The Grid. **8.00** Winter Paralympics Breakfast. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Winter Paralympics Today. **2.00** Winter Paralympics Closing Ceremony. Coverage from PyeongChang Olympic Stadium in South Korea. **3.15 Film:** Epic. (2013) Animated adventure, with the voice of Amanda Seyfried. **5.15** The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Britain's Polar Bear Cub. Behind the scenes at the Highland Wildlife Park near Kingussie in Inverness-shire, following efforts to breed the nation's first polar bear cub for 25 years as keepers mate Arktos with Victoria. Cameras reveal the highs and lows of the staff's attempts to breed one of the world's most recognisable and endangered animals.

8.00 Escape to the Chateau. New series. Series following a British family restoring a French chateau. As summer arrives, Dick Strawbridge and Angel Adoree are busier than ever with seven weddings and 14 food lovers' weekends to prepare for. And as if that wasn't enough to keep them busy, they must also sort out the garden, work on a stables conversion and embark on a surprising floating adventure.

9.00 Homeland. Carrie puts a plan in motion, Saul visits a source and Keane makes a desperate plea. Espionage drama, starring Claire Danes, Mandy Patinkin and Elizabeth Marvel.

10.05 13 Commandments. New series. A provincial Belgian town is rocked by the murder of a 16-year-old girl and the case takes a shocking turn. Crime thriller, starring Dirk Van Dijck. In Flemish.

11.00 Film: Solace. (2015) A psychic helps the FBI to identify a serial killer, but realises the murderer has mental powers of his own. Crime thriller, starring Anthony Hopkins and Colin Farrell.

12.55 The Last Leg. With guest Claudia Winkleman. (R) **1.50** The Job Interview. (R) **2.45** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **3.25** Gillette World Sport. **3.55** Undercover: Who's Policing Your Bank? – Channel 4 Dispatches. (R) **4.25** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.20** Food Unwrapped. (R) **5.45** Kirstie's Homemade Home. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.40** Mofy. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.00** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.10** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.40** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.50** Blaze and the Monster Machines. **8.10** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.30** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.45** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.30** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **10.55** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **11.25 Film:** Getting Even with Dad. (1994) **1.30 Film:** Richie Rich. (1994) Family comedy, starring Macaulay Culkin. **3.15 Film:** My Girl. (1991) Drama, starring Anna Chlumsky and Macaulay Culkin. **4.15** 5 News Update. **4.20 Film:** My Girl. (1991) Concluded. **5.20 Film:** Junior. (1994) Comedy, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger.

7.20 Film: Jumper. (2008) A man discovers he has the ability to teleport, a talent he cleverly exploits to rob banks undetected while living a life of luxury all over the world. However, he soon learns he is not the only one with this power – and that a secret society of religious fanatics is determined to wipe out him and all of his kind. Fantasy thriller, with Hayden Christensen, Jamie Bell and Samuel L Jackson.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Film: The Equalizer. (2014) A retired secret agent applies his talents to the task of helping victims of injustice. When he witnesses a prostitute being beaten up by a pimp, he kills the man, an act that draws him into a battle to the death with a Russian crime syndicate. Action thriller based on the 1980s TV series, starring Denzel Washington and Chloe Grace Moretz.

10.00 5 News Update.

10.05 Film: The Equalizer. (2014) Concluded.

11.35 Film: The Expendables 2. (2012) The mercenary team battles a rival band of hired guns who have killed one of their number. Action thriller sequel, starring Sylvester Stallone and Jean-Claude Van Damme.

1.35 SuperCasino. **3.10** Cowboy Builders. (R) **4.00** World's Most Pampered Pets. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Only Connect **7.30** University Challenge **8.00** Ancient Greece: The Greatest Show on Earth **9.00** Andrew Marr on Churchill: Blood, Sweat and Oil Paint **10.00 Film:** 13 Minutes (2015) **11.45** The Riviera: A History in Pictures **1.45** Ancient Greece: The Greatest Show on Earth **2.45** Andrew Marr on Churchill: Blood, Sweat and Oil Paint **3.45** Sounds of the Seventies **4.00** Close

ITV2

12.55 The Voice UK **2.55 Film:** Happy Feet (2006) **3.55** FYI Daily **4.00 Film:** Happy Feet (2006) **5.05 Film:** Hotel Transylvania 2 (2015) **6.05** FYI Daily **6.10 Film:** Hotel Transylvania 2 (2015) **7.00 Film:** The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **8.00** FYI Daily **8.05 Film:** The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.25 Film:** Keith Lemon: The Film (2012) **1.30** FYI Daily **1.35 Film:** Keith Lemon: The Film (2012) **2.05** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records

ITV3

7.00 Murder, She Wrote **8.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs **9.00** Joanna Lumley's Trans-Siberian Adventure **10.00 Film:** The Theory of Everything (2014) **12.30** Inspector Morse **2.25** Blue Murder **3.40** Rising Damp **4.05** Road to Avonlea

ITV4

11.50 FYI Daily **11.55 Film:** How the West Was Won (1962) **2.00** Goodwood Members Meeting. **4.00** Hornblower **6.10 Film:** On Her Majesty's Secret Service (1969) **7.25** FYI Daily **7.30 Film:** On Her Majesty's Secret Service (1969) **9.00 Film:** Windtalkers (2002) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** Windtalkers (2002) **11.50 Film:** Above the Law (1988) **12.50** FYI Daily **12.55 Film:** Above the Law (1988) **1.55** River Monsters **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.20 The Big Bang Theory **4.20** The Goldbergs **4.50** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **5.50** Young Sheldon **6.20** The Big Bang Theory **6.50 Film:** School of Rock (2003) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00 Film:** 2 Guns (2013) **12.10** The Big Bang Theory **1.05** Five Star Hotel **3.00** First Dates Abroad **3.25** Hollyoaks

Film4

1.00 Anastasia (1997) **2.50** Bridge to Terabithia (2007) **4.40** One Fine Day (1996) **6.50** Crocodile Dundee II (1988) **9.00** Terminator Genisys (2015) **11.25** The King's Speech (2010) **1.40** Force Majeure (2014) **4.00** Close

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PICK OF THE WEEK

The stars are out to shine in the aid of a good cause

Whether you're a couch potato or a seasoned sprinter, we hope you have been on your feet this week and making your steps count.

In the lead up to tonight's Sport Relief, the Billion Steps Challenge has been taking place as the British public have been encouraged to get active, have fun and raise cash to help people living tough lives both in the UK and around the world.

For the first time, tonight's show comes live from Salford, with the mayhem beginning at 7pm as Gary Lineker, Davina McCall and Ore Oduba welcome viewers. Throughout the night, the baton is then passed to Paddy McGuinness, Claudia Winkleman and Freddie Flintoff as they guide viewers into the early hours.

As is always the case with Sport Relief, a host of famous faces will be stepping into unfamiliar territory, all in the name of entertainment and fundraising.

Celebrity Boxing makes a comeback, as six fearless stars don their gloves and mouth guards and take to the ring for a triple-bill of bouts. Wayne Bridge faces Spencer Matthews, Hannah Spearritt goes head to head with Vanessa White and Camilla Thurlow takes on Helen Skelton.

Also during the evening, comedian John Bishop lands a role he could only have dreamt of and sets out on a mission to help England win the World Cup.

We'll see a Clash Of The Channels Boat Race, while Sue Barker hosts a special edition of quiz A Question of Sport.

There will be regular visits to 5-Live-A-Side outside the studio, where Robbie Savage's celebrity all-star team are attempting a whopping 12 hours of non-stop football.

Strictly Come Dancing brings a welcome dose of glitz and glamour to the evening as three football legends – Alex Scott, Chris Kamara and David Ginola – don their sequins and show us their fancy footwork.

Throughout the night, there will be a look into how money raised through Sport Relief can help vulnerable people in the UK and across the world to live happier, healthier, safer lives, with a special focus this year on maternal health, malaria and mental health.

There will be updates on Zoe Ball who has been taking part in a cycle challenge from Blackpool to Brighton to raise mental health awareness, after the death of her boyfriend, cameraman Billy Yates, last year.

Zoe says: "I wanted to do something for him. One in four people is living with mental illness. That's a lot of people struggling."

In 2016, Radio 1 DJ Greg James finished five triathlons in five days in five cities and raised over £750,000.

This year, he has taken part in another epic challenge, officially named Pedal To The Peaks, but nicknamed the Gregathlon.

He said: "My last challenge was unbelievably difficult but I think we're about to top it. This challenge is even more ridiculous."

The biennial fundraiser, Sport Relief 2018, Friday, BBC1, 7pm

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
A Deadly Affair, Channel 5, 3.20pm
Suspecting her husband Charlie of having an affair, author Mary trails him to the house he has been renovating, only to find his dead body. As she is having her own fling, Mary becomes the lead suspect in her spouse's murder. Thriller, starring Valerie Azlynn, Austin Highsmith and Luke Edwards. (2017)

TUESDAY
The Expendables 3, Channel 5, 10pm
Soldier of fortune Barney Ross discovers an old friend he was forced to kill is still alive, and has become a powerful arms dealer with vengeance on his mind. Barney is forced to recruit a new band of mercenaries and adopt more modern tactics to deal with this threat to him and his past associates. Action thriller sequel, starring Sylvester Stallone and Mel Gibson. (2014)

Under Siege, Thursday, Channel 5, 10pm

WEDNESDAY
A Walk Among the Tombstones, Channel 5, 9pm
An ex cop working as an unlicensed private eye is hired by a drug trafficker to find the men who murdered his wife. As the detective investigates the case, he discovers the men he is tracking have killed many times before and takes desperate measures to stop them claiming another victim. Crime thriller based on Lawrence Block's novel, starring Liam Neeson and Dan Stevens. (2014)

THURSDAY
Under Siege, Channel 5, 10pm
Terrorists infiltrate a US battleship in a carefully orchestrated move to steal its arsenal of nuclear weapons, unaware the ship's resourceful cook - a veteran US Navy Seal - and a scantily clad stripper are about to foil their plans. Action adventure, starring Steven Seagal, Erika Eleniak, Gary Busey and Tommy Lee Jones. (1992)

FRIDAY
The Net, Channel 4, 12.10am
A computer analyst has to prove her true identity after her details are replaced by a false police record on the national database. Thriller, with Sandra Bullock, Jeremy Northam, Dennis Miller and Diane Baker. (1995)

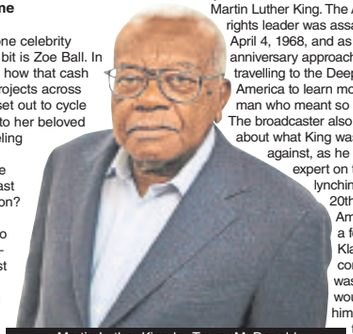
BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Marcella
ITV, 9pm
Retracing the route of the lorry and the car from the train crash, the team is able to deduce the area in which Adam was picked up and the vehicle was stolen. Officers are dispatched to the area and come across an old abandoned house with a bloody handprint on the door and what they find inside the house shocks Marcella and Rav to their core as the true scale of the killer's crimes become apparent.

TUESDAY
The World's Ugliest Pets
ITV, 8pm
The Internet is awash with pictures of perfect pugs, cutesy kittens and beautiful bunnies. But what about the ugly ones? This one-off programme celebrates the pets who haven't been blessed with beauty, as animal lover Caroline Quentin shares her love for 'fugly' (fabulously-ugly) furry friends. The show features everything from hairless guinea pigs to one-eyed dogs and follows Caroline as she journeys to the mecca of mutt-ugly animals: The World's Ugliest Dog Contest in Petaluma, California. Starting her journey in the UK, Caroline meets some of the country's ugliest pets and explores why Brits love an underdog. Then she will choose the UK's ugliest pooch to represent the nation, before crossing the Atlantic to California, along with the dog and its owner, to fly the flag for Britain's 'fugly' pets.

WEDNESDAY
Zoe Ball's Hardest Road Home
BBC1, 9pm
It's Sports Relief this week and one celebrity who's been doing more than her bit is Zoe Ball. In a bid to raise money – and show how that cash helps to support mental health projects across the UK – the Radio 2 presenter set out to cycle from her birthplace of Blackpool to her beloved hometown of Brighton. It's a grueling undertaking for a novice cyclist, especially given the unpredictable nature of the weather over the past few weeks, but how did Zoe get on? This documentary follows her progress as she pushes herself to the physical and emotional limit – although on the plus side, at least she gets to pass some historic sites and iconic landmarks along the way. We'll also get an insight into what motivated Ball to take on such a huge challenge.

THURSDAY
Martin Luther King by Trevor McDonald
ITV, 9pm
Throughout his career, Trevor McDonald has met many remarkable people. However, there is one man who he always wishes he could have spoken to – Martin Luther King. The American civil rights leader was assassinated on April 4, 1968, and as the 50th anniversary approaches, McDonald is travelling to the Deep South of America to learn more about the man who meant so much to him. The broadcaster also discovers more about what King was fighting against, as he speaks to an expert on the horrors of lynching in 20th-century America and meets a former Ku Klux Klan member who confesses there was a time when he would have targeted him because of the colour of his skin.


Martin Luther King by Trevor McDonald, Thursday, ITV, 9pm

FRIDAY
Live International Football
ITV, 7.30pm
Netherlands v England (Kick-off 7.45pm). Mark Pougatch presents all the action from the friendly at the Johan Cruyff Arena, as England began preparations for the World Cup. Gareth Southgate's men qualified for the finals unbeaten, but he will still feel there is room for improvement as he looks to find his strongest team ahead of the finals in Russia. Despite finishing third four years ago and as runners-up in 2010, the Dutch have failed to qualify for the World Cup this time around and are now looking to rebuild under the guidance of new manager Ronald Koeman, who had spells as boss of Southampton and Everton. With analysis from Ian Wright, Lee Dixon and Patrick Kluivert, and commentary by Clive Tyldesley and Glenn Hoddle.

Britain's Favourite Food
Channel 4, 8pm
Simon Rimmer looks at some of the nation's favourite branded foods, which found fame in a past era. In the first of two programmes, the cook and restauranter tells the story of Angel Delight, revisits the golden summer of 1979 with lollies like Zoom and Fab, relates the amazing tale of Blue Nun and the wine the French allegedly adored - Le Piat d'Or.

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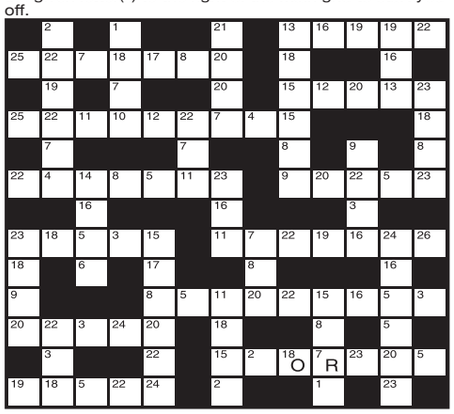
No.471

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



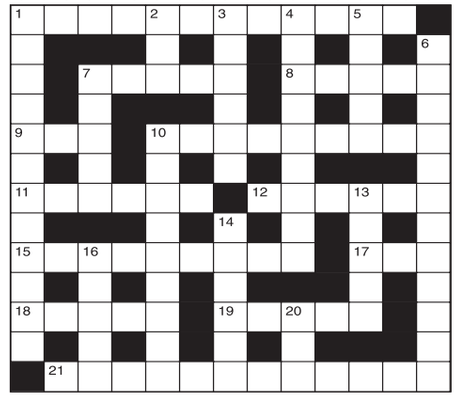
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18 O
6	19
7 R	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Z	O	J	N	G	I	B	E	L	W	U	A	X
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
H	S	M	C	K	Y	Q	P	T	V	R	D	F

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Where they are well-endowed to deal with complaints? (6,6)
7. Some support for the workers (5)
8. A quaintly pleasing French accent (5)
9. Finished up with paid help (3)
10. Finished after only half the distance and stretched out (9)
11. Country hat (6)
12. Hang about as many fish (6)
15. Little known, but giving one credit (9)
17. No alternative (3)
18. One is about to make a racket (5)
19. Put a watch on (5)
21. Condenses Enid's solo act, perhaps (12)

Down

1. Successor clearly seen (4,8)
2. Food and drink (3)
3. Don't agree it's rubbish (6)
4. Deadlock with an old friend (9)
5. Drinks and a sandwich (5)
6. A quality we don't care to show (12)
7. Battle for the chairman's seat? (5)
10. Bullies those who work around the pit (9)
13. Ridiculed a conductor, we hear (5)
14. He has a part in a Shakespeare play, but may be fired (6)
16. The atmosphere in a small company may be capital (5)
20. It's not sensible to stop up (3)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. U.S. port (3,9)
7. Later (5)
8. Coach (5)
9. Fasten (3)
10. Perfume (9)
11. One who goes naked (6)
12. Amend (6)
15. Tomb (9)
17. Tavern (3)
18. Boxing ring (5)
19. Sea (5)
21. In various places (4,3,5)

Down

1. Meteor (8,4)
2. Decay (3)
3. Usual (6)
4. Interpose (9)
5. Fetter (5)
6. Endless (12)
7. In front (5)
10. Continuous shooting (9)
13. Constellation (5)
14. Flung (6)
16. Portion (5)
20. Consume (3)

Sudoku

		3			4	7		
	2						3	
9		5	6		3			1
5			9		6			2
	8			4			5	9
2			1		8			7
4			7		9	2		6
	1						8	
		6		2		5		

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	2	8	5	1	9	7	4	6
1	4	7	6	3	2	8	9	5
9	5	6	4	7	8	1	3	2
5	3	9	7	8	1	2	6	4
4	7	2	9	5	6	3	1	8
6	8	1	2	4	3	9	5	7
2	9	5	3	6	7	4	8	1
8	6	3	1	2	4	5	7	9
7	1	4	8	9	5	6	2	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 4 Fairway; 8 Reason; 9 Upstart; 10 Tuscan; 11 Reeled; 12 Organdie; 18 Fatalist; 20 Manage; 21 Skater; 22 Straits; 23 Intone; 24 Addenda. Down: 1 Oration; 2 Passage; 3 Domain; 5 Apparent; 6 Rather; 7 Agreed; 13 Defeated; 14 Fiction; 15 Started; 16 Matted; 17 Garage; 19 Asking.
QUICK - Across: 4 Variety; 8 Opined; 9 Account; 10 Cougar; 11 Spined; 12 Penitent; 18 Commence; 20 Colour; 21 Struck; 22 Comical; 23 Detain; 24 Lengthy. Down: 1 Concept; 2 Piquant; 3 Depart; 5 Accustom; 6 Ironic; 7 Tinged; 13 Encroach; 14 Inhuman; 15 Weakens; 16 Morose; 17 Coming; 19 Mutter.

Quiz

1. In the Arabian Nights, how many journeys did Sinbad make?
2. What is the administrative capital of Bolivia?
3. Which US state is nicknamed the Beehive State?
4. What is the Lord Chancellor's seat in the House of Lords called?
5. What is the capital of Rwanda?
6. Which drug yields both morphine and codeine?
7. Which architect designed London's Chelsea Hospital?
8. What is the longest river in Europe?
9. Who was the Roman god of fire and destruction?
10. Which Canadian territory's capital is Whitehorse?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Kentucky Derby; 2 Pandora; 3 Assyrian; 4 A lizard; 5 Fremantle; 6 Judo; 7 Tree; 8 US Independence; 9 Zaire; 10 Ceefax.

Niner: MANGROVES

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

2785328 gives a British city,
6422 gives a second British city,
123496 gives a British town.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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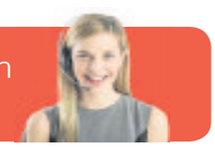

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Brighton breezy and runaway success

RUNNING around a 13-mile course in the cold would not be everyone's ideal way to spend a Sunday morning.

But when it's in Brighton it makes it all worthwhile.

With a daughter at university in the south-east city, we have become frequent visitors in the last few months.

So taking on the Brighton Half Marathon, its 28th, seemed the perfect excuse to spend another weekend there.

It was fresh as literally thousands of runners took their places, but the atmosphere was tremendous, with well-wishers cheering on the runners, random children high-fiving and strangers offering energy-boosting jelly babies.

And of course, it gave participants the chance to see the sights of the beautiful city, including the Sea Life Centre, Royal Pavilion and the British Airways i360. The route even takes in Hove and its colourful beach huts.

Peruse the shops in The Lanes or stop for a bite

Take time for a stroll along Brighton Pier

MERGED

Brighton and Hove merged in 1997 and was given city status in 2000. Of course, one doesn't necessarily need to take the muscle-sapping half marathon route to enjoy what the city has to offer. The i360, for example, offers an all-round view of the city and even of the Isle of Wight.

There's the largest marina in the UK, with its working harbour, residential housing and entertainment including glow in dark golf, cinema and eateries.

The Lanes shopping area features niche retail outlets and pubs, while the city is also home to the Brighton Dome, where Abba won Eurovision in 1974 with Waterloo. And it's home to Premiership football, of course.

Music still plays a big part in the city's culture today. Bands The Kooks, Levellers, Royal Blood and Brit award-winning Rag n Bone Man all hail from the region. As does celebrated DJ Norman 'Fat Boy Slim' Cook, who was also running in the half marathon with his teenage son Woody.

The history of Brighton as a holiday destination of repute dates back to Prince Regent, later George IV, who established himself there in late 18th century, and commissioned leading architect John Nash to create the iconic Royal Pavilion as his seaside retreat.

By 1814 the rail line opened and mass tourism was encouraged. Brighton continued to prosper even after Queen Victoria sold the pavilion. Many landmarks were built during her reign including the listed Palace Pier, the last one standing of three such structures.

The city, aka London by the Sea, attracts visitors all year round with entertainment including England's largest arts festival, Pride, and a series of London to Brighton runs in the form of vintage cars and scooters, a nod to the 1963 film Quadrophenia, set in the city.

Also dating back centuries is the Old Ship, the city's oldest hotel, established in around 1559. We stayed in the imposing seafront premises, which has more than 340 rooms, a gym and features the listed Assembly Rooms.

Impressive, both from the outside and within, our splendid room had a sea view and the staff were so accommodating, allowing me take breakfast away to eat after the run, and putting back our checkout time to allow me to come back and shower afterwards.

Brighton breezy it may have been, but we are already planning our next trip back.

MARK SHIPP

The impressive Old Ship

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& Liverpool

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from Brownhills, Cannock & Stafford

Price Includes...
- ✔ Return coach travel
- ✔ 1 night DBB at a selected hotel, North West area
- ✔ Steeplechase Enclosure ticket at Aintree on Grand National Day
- ✔ En-route visit to Liverpool

2 Days by Coach — now only £149

Diana
Her Fashion Story

Departing Saturday 12 May
from Cannock & Stafford

Price Includes...
- ✔ Return coach travel
- ✔ Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star hotel within 20 miles of central London, with 3-course dinner and full English breakfast
- ✔ Sunday admission ticket to Kensington Palace and gardens, including entrance to the 'Diana: Her Fashion Story' exhibition
- ✔ Free time in central London

2 Days by Coach — only £139

Ultimate Emmerdale
Studio, Village & Meet a Star

Departing Saturday 19 May
from Cannock

Price Includes...
- ✔ Return coach travel
- ✔ 1 night DBB at a selected hotel, Yorkshire
- ✔ Guided tour of the Emmerdale TV Village
- ✔ Timed admission to the Emmerdale Studio Experience
- ✔ Exclusive meet and greet with Mark Charnock at the Bradford Hotel

2 Days by Coach — only £169

Farnborough Air Show

Departing Saturday 21 Jul
from Cannock & Stafford

Price Includes...
- ✔ Return coach travel
- ✔ 1 night DBB at a selected hotel
- ✔ General Admission ticket to the Farnborough International Airshow
- ✔ Return coach transfer from the hotel to the Farnborough International Airshow

2 Days by Coach — only £149

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Three-bedroomed spacious detached has stunning views

Having stunning open views to the front, 232 Cannock Road, Heath Hayes, is a fully renovated and deceptively spacious three-bedroomed detached family home.

Being beautifully located in Heath Hayes, it is for sale through Flint & Co Estate Agents at £260,000. This property must be viewed to appreciate size and quality of upgrade throughout.

The accommodation briefly comprises of a spacious entrance lobby/office area, a 24ft lounge/diner, a re-fitted kitchen/diner, a utility room, a guest cloakroom/WC, a master bedroom with an en-suite, two further double bedrooms, a refitted family bathroom, a driveway providing parking for several vehicles and a good sized rear garden.

In more detail the entrance lobby/office area has tiled flooring. The lounge/diner has a feature marble-effect fireplace and two double-glazed bow windows.

The refitted kitchen/diner has a range of wall-mounted and base units with roll top work surfaces over, an acrylic sink and drainer, an integral dishwasher, space for an 'American sized' fridge freezer, space for a range cooker, a built-in extractor hood, partial wall tiling, inset ceiling spot lights, 'Karndean' tiled-effect flooring and a door to the rear.

The master bedroom has built-in wardrobes, drawers and a dressing table and is positioned to the rear. Bedroom two lies to the front.

Bedroom three is positioned to the front and has an en-suite shower room with low level WC, wall-mounted wash hand basin, a shower cubicle, fully tiled walls, an extractor fan, a heated towel rail, inset ceiling spot lights and pebble-effect flooring.

Outside, to the front of the property there is a block paved driveway and vehicle access to the side of the property offering additional off-road parking. There is also a good-sized rear garden mainly laid to lawn with shrub and flower borders, and mature fruit trees and a paved patio area.

HEATH HAYES £260,000

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Flint & Co
TEL: 01543 624400
EMAIL: info@flintandco.com

KEY FEATURES

- Detached family home
- Fully renovated
- Deceptively spacious
- 3 bedrooms
- Stunning open views

She's sold

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- **Registered house hunters**
- **Solid marketing advice to help you sell fast**

If you are thinking of selling, look no further than the estate agents in these pages for the best local advice available.

Three-bedroom semi available to rent now

BURNTWOOD
£695 PCM

Available for a long term let, this three-bedroomed semi-detached house in North Street, Burntwood, is available to rent through Flint & Co Estate Agents at £695 per calender month.

With gas central heating and double glazing, the property has been finished to a high standard.

It is available unfurnished. Its accommodation includes a modern fitted breakfast kitchen and bathroom, a lounge with French doors leading into the rear enclosed garden, parking for two vehicles and three good bedrooms.

The property is available immediately. Appliances include an integrated oven and a hob.

For further information, or to book that all important viewing, contact Flint & Co on 01543 624400.

Three-bed end terrace with a garage in popular spot

LICHFIELD
£275,000 <<<

This enhanced three-bedroomed end of terraced property in Alamein Way, Lichfield, is for sale through Jayman Estate Agents at £275,000.

It comes with a detached garage and lies in a very sought-after location. It sits close to all local schools, amenities, transport links and is within just a few minutes walk from the city centre.

In brief the property comprises of an entrance hall, a lounge, a dining room, a kitchen, an orangery and a guest cloakroom/WC. To the first floor is the master bedroom with an en-suite, two further bedrooms and a family bathroom. Outside there is a good sized rear garden and a detached garage.

To book a viewing contact Jayman on 01543 505566 or visit the website at www.jayman.co.uk

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Wade Street Lichfield

- Two Bedroom Town House
- Living Room & Fitted Kitchen
- Refitted Bathroom
- Low Maintenance Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking To Rear
- City Centre Location
- No Onward Chain
- EPC = C

£210,000

Hednesford Road Heath Hayes

£110,000

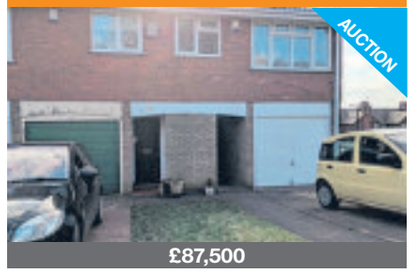
• Ground Floor Two Bedroom Apartment • Open Plan Lounge Diner and Kitchen
• Large Master Bedroom • Modern Bathroom
• Secure Gated Parking • EPC = C

Micklewood Close Penkridge

£250,000

• Three Bedroom Link Detached • Kitchen & Breakfast Area
• Two Reception Rooms • Utility & Downstairs WC
• Garage & Driveway • EPC = TBC

Longacres Hednesford



£87,500

• Auction T&C's Apply • NO UPWARD CHAIN
• Spacious Ground Floor One Bedroom Apartment • Large Enclosed, Private Garden, Garage
• Shower Room • EPC =D

Stafford Street Heath Hayes

£200,000

• Three Bedroom Detached House • Kitchen Breakfast Room
• Lounge Diner • Conservatory
• Driveway & Garage • EPC = D

Colliers Way Huntington

£250,000

• Five Bedroom Detached • Two En-Suites & Family Bathroom
• Open Plan Kitchen Diner • Rear Garden
• Garage & Driveway • EPC = C

Knighton Road Cannock

£179,950

• Three Bedroom Detached House • Two Reception Rooms
• Fitted Kitchen • Rear Garden
• Garage & Off Road Parking • EPC = D

Capercaillie Drive Heath Hayes

- Four Bedroom Town House
- En Suite to Master
- Kitchen Diner & Separate Lounge
- Guest WC
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Garage & Driveway
- Well Presented Throughout
- EPC = C

£225,000

Lichfield Road Cannock

£289,950

• ••PART EXCHANGE CONSIDERED•• • Three Bedroom Detached House
• Two Reception Rooms & Conservatory • Pleasant Front & Rear Gardens
• Double Garage • EPC = F

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JR PROPERTIES

T:01889 577731
E:enquiries@jrpropertiesstaffs.com

Sycamore House, Colton — £799,950

● JR Distinctive Homes are pleased to offer for sale this unique detached property situated on a mature garden plot finished and presented to an unrivalled standard. Sycamore House was built by the present occupiers and combines a bespoke and contemporary interior with a traditional looking facade set on a secluded plot within the Village of Colton

Bower Lane, Etching Hill — £399,950

● JR Distinctive Homes are pleased to offer for sale this three bedroom detached dormer bungalow. The property sits on an extensive garden plot with open views across countryside to the front and parking for numerous vehicles with its long sweeping driveway. Internally the property boasts hallway, three bedrooms, two reception rooms, kitchen, study, laundry room,

Kingsley Wood Rd, Rugeley — £850,000

● JR Distinctive Homes are pleased to market White Gables: A four bedroom,three Bathroom detached family home, nestled in the heart of Cannock Chase, standing in approx 0.97 Acres. Having a two bedroom self contained Annex for family and offering flexible living. MUST BE VIEWED TO APPRECIATE.

Peakes Road, Etching Hill — £399,950

● JR Distinctive Homes are pleased to offer for sale this traditional 1930s detached home which sits on a mature plot of over half an acre (approx). The house itself has gas central heating and double glazing with five bedrooms, two reception rooms, kitchen, utility, two bathrooms and double garage. The property offers huge potential within a highly desirable

Distinctive Homes

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rightmove

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JR PROPERTIES

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Wattfield Close, Brereton £239,950

● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this spacious link detached bungalow in a popular cul de sac location. The property is offer with no upward chain and comprises: hallway, three bedrooms, large lounge/diner, conservatory, kitchen, utility room, shower room and garden to rear, viewing essential

Upton Place, Rugeley £149,950

● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this three bedroom semi detached family home being located in a popular area. Accommodation having Hallway, Lounge and Breakfast Kitchen. Landing to Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. Gardens to front and rear with Driveway.

Ravenhill Terrace, Brereton £120,000

● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this well presented two bedroom end terrace property in a popular location. The property benefits from two good size bedrooms and reception rooms and is an ideal FTB/ Investment purchase

Daywell Rise, Rugeley £129,950

● JR Properties are pleased to market this three bedroom semi detached home,being offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Having Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room and Fitted Kitchen. Landing to Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. Gardens to front and rear and Detached Garage with off road parking.

Redbrook Lane, Brereton £145,000

● JR Properties are pleased to market this three bedroom semi detached family home, being offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Having Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room and Fitted Kitchen. Landing to Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. Driveway to front and Garden to rear.

We're Selling... Are You...?
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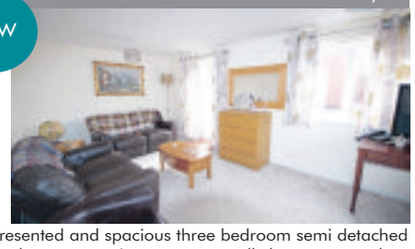
Arch Street, Rugeley £125,000

● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this well presented two bedroom terraced property close to the town centre. The property is an ideal FTB/ Investment property and is also offered with No Upward Chain. Gas central heating and double glazing, lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom

Woodthorne Close, Rugeley £155,000

● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this extended three bedroom semi detached home, in a quiet cul de sac location. Having Porch, Entrance Hallway, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge and Dining Room.Landing to Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. Driveway to Garage and Gardens. NO UPWARD CHAIN

Bagnall Way, Hawksyard £209,950



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this well presented and spacious three bedroom semi detached home. Situated on the popular Hawksyard development the property sits on an unusually large corner plot with garden to front and side aspects and separate garage, NO CHAIN

Wordsworth Close, Armitage £164,950

● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this three bedroom semi detached property in the popular village location of Armitage. Offered with No Upward Chain and positioned in a private drive location the property features three bedrooms, lounge, kitchen, guest wc, bathroom, conservatory and plentiful parking

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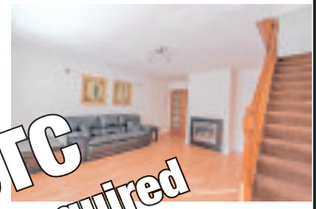
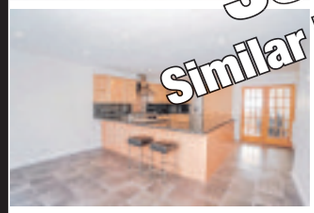
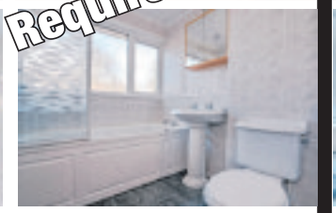
NEW

HEDNESFORD
CHARLEMONTE CLOSE



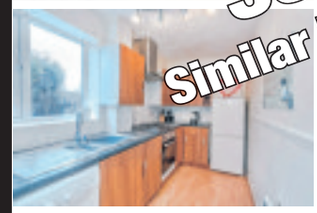
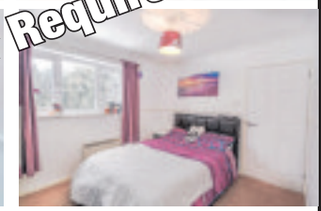



- Extended Family Home
- Lounge
- Extended Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Seperate Garage
- Driveway
- No Chain

£149,950

NEW

NORTON CANES
KNIGHTS COURT

- Starter Home
- Popular Location
- Hall
- Lounge/Diner
- Refitted Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Allocated Parking

£120,000

NEW

CHESLYN HAY
STREETS LANE

- Traditional Semi
- Refitted Kitchen
- 2 Reception Rooms
- 2 Bedrooms
- En-Suite
- Garden
- Driveway
- Viewing Recommended

£160,000

REDUCED

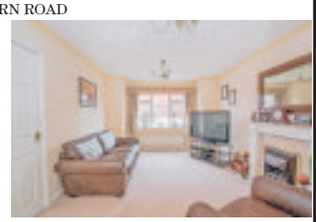
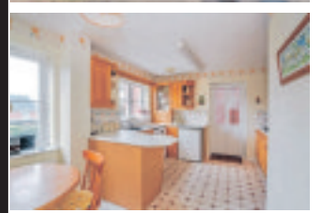
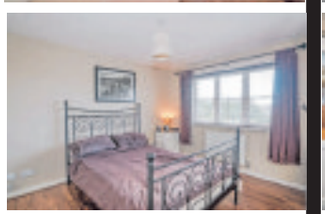
HEDNESFORD
BEECHPINE CLOSE

- Modern Semi Detached
- Hall, Guests WC
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- G.C.H. D.Glazed
- NO CHAIN

£169,950

NEW

HEDNESFORD
WESTERN ROAD

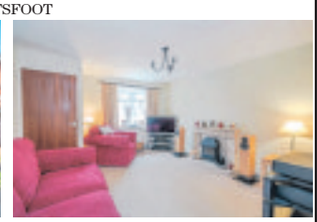
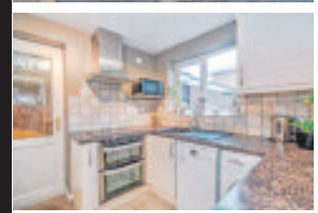
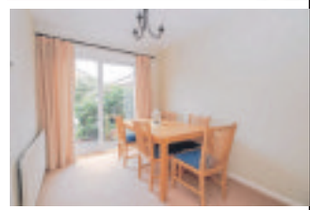




- Detached Family Home
- Through Hallway
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- 4 Bedrooms, En-Suite
- Town Centre Location
- Garage, Driveway
- No Chain

£259,950

REDUCED

CHESLYN HAY
COLTSFOOT

- Lovely Family Home
- Hallway,
- Lounge,
- Kitchen,
- Dining Room,
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom.
- Side Garage,
- Car Port, Driveway.
- Gardens

£189,950

REDUCED

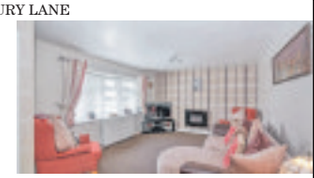
HEATH HAYES
CAPERCAILLIE DRIVE

- Modern Detached
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Study/Playroom
- Conservatory
- 3 Bedrooms
- En-Suite to Bed 1
- Family Bathroom

£240,000

NEW

HEDNESFORD
BRADBURY LANE



- Family Home
- Close to Cannock Chase
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Conservatory
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Rear Garden

£160,000

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Hednesford Road
RUGELEY

Deceptively spacious five/six bedroom detached house / Spacious five/six bedroom detached house / First floor annexe offering a further bedroom, lounge and kitchenette / Large rear garden /

£350,000

2 Coach House Mews
RUGELEY

Unique Grade II listed coach house / Winding driveway leading through open parkland / Allocated parking space with further space to front / Separate double garage / Communal rear courtyard

£319,500

Watermint Close
WIMBLEBURY

Well presented four bedroom detached family home / Enviable corner plot position at the end of a quiet & sought after cul-de-sac / Parking for several vehicles plus an adjoining double garage / Large

£300,000

Newbury Road
NORTON CANES

Four bedroom detached house / Set on a good sized corner plot / Spacious living & sleeping accommodation / Modern fitted kitchen & bathrooms / Private rear garden

£300,000

Bramwell Drive
HEDNESFORD

Outstanding & immaculately presented four bedroom town house / Occupying a large corner plot / High spec finish throughout / Spacious open plan lounge-diner / Two en-suites

£280,000

Gorsemoor Road
HEATH HAYES

Immaculately presented and deceptively spacious four bedroom detached house / Set on large end plot / Generously extended on ground floor / Modern fitted high spec kitchen

£270,000

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£500,000	£10,800	£4,760	£6,050

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rightmove.co.uk | Zoopla.co.uk | PrimeLocation.com | The Property Ombudsman

Oak Woods
CANNOCK

Immaculately presented three bedroom detached house / Stunning open plan living area with kitchen, diner and sitting area / Show house finish through out / Quiet cul-de-sac

£240,000

Truro Place
HEATH HAYES

Well presented three bedroom detached family home / Private south west facing rear garden with recently laid patio area / Superb open plan kitchen-diner with new fitted kitchen (2 years old) / Spacious

£225,000

Pendle Hill
HEDNESFORD

Well presented semi detached three bedroom house / Set over three storeys / Spacious lounge and separate dining room / Private rear garden / Superb top floor master bedroom

£210,000

Wade Lane
RUGELEY

Well presented three bedroom semi detached house / Set on good sized corner plot / highly sought after area / Spacious lounge / Kitchen-diner / Good sized low maintenance rear garden

Offers in Excess of £210,000

Walsall Road
BRIDGTOWN

Spacious extended four bedroom detached house / Set on a large plot / Spacious reception rooms and bedrooms / Large private rear garden which is not overlooked,

Offers in Excess of £210,000

Belt Road
HEDNESFORD

Immaculately presented three bedroom detached family home / Set on a good sized corner plot / Recently undergone refurbishment / Superb open plan lounge-diner

Offers in Excess of £200,000

Hobby Way
HEATH HAYES

Immaculately presented three bedroom townhouse / Finished to an exceptionally high standard throughout / Set over three storeys / High spec fitted kitchen / Driveway for two vehicles and a detached garage

Offers in Excess of £200,000

Elder Close
HEATH HAYES

Well presented three bedroom detached house / Set on quiet cul-de-sac / Planning permission to extend full length to the side with storys / Additional garage conversion / Spacious lounge & modern

£200,000

Stagborough Way
HEDNESFORD

Well presented three bedroom semi detached house / Finished to great standard throughout / Good sized lounge & superb open plan kitchen-diner / Rear conservatory / Modern fitted bathroom

£180,000

Hednesford Road
HEATH HAYES

Extremely spacious three bedroom detached character property / Modern method of auction / Set on a large plot / Ideal for investors / Large rear garden stretching over 45 metres

Auction Guide Price £160,000

The Brambles
NORTON CANES

Two bedroom mid terraced house / Set back from the main road in a quiet residential area / Two allocated parking spaces / Lounge-diner / Modern finish / 2 Parking spaces

£140,000

Goya Close
HEATH HAYES

Well p[resented two bedroom house / Quiet cul-de-sac / Private and well maintained rear garden / New windows throughout /Two double bedrooms

£137,995

Elder Close
HEATH HAYES

Two bedroom semi detached house / Set back from the road at the end of a private driveway / Spacious lounge and modern fitted kitchen-diner / Driveway for two vehicles / Good sized rear garden

Offers in Excess of £130,000

Royal Close
RUGELEY

Well presented two bedroom semi detached house / Situated on end of quiet cul-de-sac / Spacious lounge & modern fitted kitchen / Two double bedrooms / Driveway for two vehicles

£130,000

Church View
BRERETON

Charming two bedroom terraced cottage / Spacious lounge / Large double bedroom plus a further good sized single / Private rear courtyard / Off road parking

£120,000

Uxbridge Street
HEDNESFORD

Two bedroom end terraced property / Dining room & kitchen / Small rear courtyard with shed & fenced borders

Offers in Excess of £90,000

Bettys Lane
NORTON CANES

Well presented one bedroom first floor self contained maisonette / Ideal for first time buyers & investors / Superb open plan living area / Modern fitted kitchen, newly fitted bathroom / Double bedroom

Offers in Excess of £80,000

Arran Close
CANNOCK

Two bedroom ground floor apartment / Property is being sold with a sitting tenant / Rental income of £495 PCM / Exciting investment opportunity / Spacious lounge

Offers in Excess of £67,000

Tel: 01543 889410 www.lovettco.co.uk

Marwood Homes

Sales Lettings Commercial Surveys

OLD PENKRIDGE ROAD, CANNOCK

- Detached Family Home
- Five Bedrooms & Study
- Two Bathrooms
- Open Plan Kitchen / Dining Room
- Living Room & Family Room
- No Upward Chain
- Utility / WC
- Very Desirable Road

£430,000

SHERBROOK ROAD, CANNOCK

- CORNER PLOT GARDENS
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- DOUBLE LENGTH GARAGE
- BREAKFAST KITCHEN
- FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED
- POTENITAL FOR EXTENSIONS
- LOUNGE & DINING ROOM
- HUGE POTENTIAL

£315,000

Burgoyne Street, Cannock

- SPACIOUS FOUR BED DETACHED
- BATHROOM & TWO EN-SUITES
- LOUNGE & DINING ROOM
- KITCHEN & CONSERVATORY
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- ENCLOSED DRIVEWAY & GARDEN

£270,000

VIVALDI DRIVE, HEATH HAYES

- WELL PRESENTED DETACHED HOME
- LOUNGE & DINING ROOM
- FOUR BEDROOMS
- EN-SUITE & BATHROOM
- BREAKFAST KITCHEN
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- SPACIOUS LOUNGE & CONSERVATORY
- EPC - C

£240,000

WALLACE CLOSE, NORTON CANES

- THREE BED DETACHED
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- DUAL ASPECT LOUNGE / DINER
- CONSERVATORY
- GARAGE & DRIVEWAY
- FITTED KITCHEN
- REFITTED BATHROOM
- CLOSE TO AMENITIES

£165,000

STAFFORD ROAD, CANNOCK

- IMMACULATE SEMI DETACHED
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM
- LARGE DETACHED GARAGE AT REAR
- LARGE REAR GARDEN
- LOUNGE & KITCHEN
- CLOSE TO CANNOCK TOWN CENTRE
- EN-SUITE OFF THE MASTER
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

£160,000

WOOTTONS COURT, CANNOCK

- CLOSE TO CANNOCK TOWN
- MODERN MID TERRACE
- ELECTRIC HEATING
- TWO BEDROOMS
- IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY
- DOWNSTAIRS WC
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- IDEAL INVESTMENT RENTAL £550pcm

£117,995

WE HAVE SOLD SO MANY PROPERTIES...

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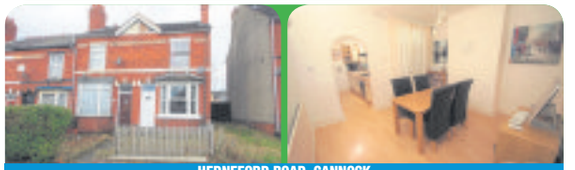
SOLD Marwood Homes SOLD Marwood Homes



HEDNEFORD ROAD, CANNOCK

- TRADITIONAL END TERRACE
- DOWNSTAIRS WC
- UPSTAIRS BATHROOM
- TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- LOUNGE & DINING ROOM
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- KITCHEN & UTILITY

£110,000

MAYCROFT CLOSE, HEDNESFORD

- WELL PRESENTED HOME
- STYLISH KITCHEN / DINER
- MODERN BATHROOM
- LANDSCAPED REAR GARDEN WITH SHED
- TWO BEDROOMS
- POPULAR ESTATE & CUL-DE-SAC LOCATION

£130,000

FREMANTLE DRIVE, HEATH HAYES

- MODERN END TERRACE
- TWO BEDROOMS
- REFITTED KITCHEN
- LOUNGE / DINER
- CONSERVATORY EPC- TBC
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- LARGE REAR GARDEN
- EPC- TBC

£137,500

HEDNESFORD ROAD, HEATH HAYES

- STUNNING THREE BED SEMI
- GATED PARKING TO SIDE
- MODERN KITCHEN / DINER
- GARAGE & LANDSCAPED GARDEN
- LOUNGE & CONSEVATORY
- STYLISH BATHROOM SUITE
- DRIVEWAY TO FRONT

£180,000

Bond Way, Hednesford

- CORNER PLOT POSITION
- ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
- THREE BEDROOMS
- GARAGE & DRIVEWAY
- LOUNGE & DINING ROOM
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- GLASS ROOF CONSERVATORY
- KITCHEN & UTILITY AREA

£210,000

HATTON ROAD, CANNOCK

- Detached Family Home
- Four Good Size Bedrooms
- Open Fields To The Front
- Two Reception Rooms
- Downstairs WC
- Very Popular Location
- Close To Cannock Chase
- Carport & Garage

£249,950

Belt Road, Cannock

- Traditional semi detached
- Large lounge with woodburner
- Fitted kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Off road parking

£650pcm Sorry no pets and no DSS

Teddesley Way, Huntington

- Semi detached family home
- Breakfast kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Driveway
- Available now

£675pcm Sorry no DSS

Hilton Road, Featherstone

- Semi detached home
- Kitchen / diner
- Large lounge
- Three bedrooms
- Garage & parking
- Available March 2018

£675pcm Sorry no DSS & no pets

Coppice Lane, Cheslyn Hay

- Detached bungalow
- Large lounge
- Two double bedrooms
- Recently decorated throughout
- Driveway & Garage
- Available now

£695pcm Sorry no dss & no pets

Boney Hay Road, Burntwood

- Reception hall
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Garden

£695pcm Sorry no dss and No pets

Cannock Road, Heath Hayes

- Three story mid terraced house
- Modern kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom & En-suite
- Two allocated parking spaces
- Available now

£750pcm Sorry no Dss & no pets

PAUL CARR
Estate Agents

Sales & Lettings

Say Hello

Great Wyrley 01922 701001
185 Walsall Road, Great Wyrley WS6 6NL

Burntwood 01543 686444
1 Lichfield Road, Burntwood WS7 0HQ

paulcarrestateagents.co.uk

Great Wyrley Office - £500,000

GREAT WYRLEY, LOVE LANE

- Impressive detached residence
- Highly desirable location
- Superb kitchen / family room
- Good sized overall plot

5 4

Burntwood Office - £435,000

BURNTWOOD, ASHMOLE AVENUE

- Impressive detached residence
- Sought after residential location
- Immaculate decor throughout
- Off road parking & garage

4 2 C

Great Wyrley Office - £387,500

CHESLYN HAY, STATION STREET

- Detached period property
- Very spacious accommodation
- Three reception rooms
- Superb rear garden

4 2

Great Wyrley Office - £365,000

BLOXWICH, STONEY LANE

- Impressive detached residence
- Substantial corner plot
- Three reception rooms
- Superb conservatory

3 1 E

Great Wyrley Office - £315,000

GREAT WYRLEY, WALSALL ROAD

- Detached Dormer Residence
- Generous Living Space
- Double Garage
- No Upward Chain

5 1 D

Great Wyrley Office - £289,950

WILLENHALL, STROUD AVENUE

- Impressive detached property
- Immaculate, contemporary interiors
- Three reception rooms
- Ample off-road parking

4 2 D

Burntwood Office - £250,000

CHASE TERRACE, MORLEY ROAD

- Spacious dormer bungalow
- Prime residential location
- Open plan breakfast / diner
- Ample off road parking

4 1 D

Burntwood Office - £250,000

LICHFIELD, BROADBENT CLOSE

- Modern style mid town house
- Three storey accommodation
- Kitchen / diner
- Off road parking & garage

3 2 B

Burntwood Office - £195,000

CHASE TERRACE, NEW PLANT

- Well presented semi
- Pleasant Cul-de-Sac location
- Lounge / diner. Conservatory
- Off road parking & garage

3 2

Burntwood Office - £180,000

BURNTWOOD, TUDOR CLOSE

- Semi-detached residence
- Cul-de-Sac location
- Through lounge, conservatory
- Utility area off lobby

3 1 C

Burntwood Office - £128,000

BURNTWOOD, UDEN HOUSE

- Modern 2nd floor apartment
- Immaculate interiors
- Two good sized bedrooms
- Allocated parking space

2 1 B

PUBLIC NOTICE

Paul Carr Estate Agents are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of **£120,000** for **51 Coronation Road, Walsall Wood, WS9 9NG.** Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Paul Carr Estate Agents, 43 High Street, Brownhills, WS8 6ED on 01543 375777 before exchange of contracts.

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Semi-detached is ideal family home

BLOXWICH
£225,000

This superbly presented modern-style semi-detached family home in Catches Drive, Bloxwich, Walsall, is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £225,000.

Having versatile living accommodation, this includes a lounge, an open plan breakfast kitchen, three double bedrooms plus a ground floor study/fourth bedroom, a bathroom, an en-suite shower room, a ground floor WC, double glazing, gas central heating, off-road parking and an enclosed rear garden.

This home is close to Bloxwich town and has a driveway and a garage.

For further information contact Skitts on 01922 478 104 or visit www.skitts.net

Well-presented semi has two double bedrooms

DARLASTON
£110,000 <<<

This extremely well presented two-bedroomed semi-detached house in King Edward Street, Darlaston, is for sale through L&S Prestige Estates at £110,000.

Its living accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hall, two reception rooms, a fitted kitchen and a family bathroom.

To the first floor are two double bedrooms.

The property benefits from having double glazing and gas central heating throughout.

To the outside there is a small walled fore garden and a fully enclosed garden to the rear with a lawned area and paved patio. The property is well situated within easy range of all local amenities and excellent transport links.

Contact L&S Prestige Estates on 01902 606 595.

BOOT & SON
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Property Auction

AUCTION

Monday 26th March 2018 7pm Prompt
at BAR SPORT PREMIER SUITE
1st Floor, The Danilo, High Green,
Cannock, WS11 1BJ

Address	Wednesday 14th & 21st March	Saturday 10th, 17th & 24th March
Port Lane Cottage, Port Lane, Chillington, Brewood	9.30am	9.30am
32 & 32a Princess Street Chadsmoor, Cannock	10.30am	10.30am
Land to Rear of 77 Old Fallow Road, Cannock	11.00am	11.00am
4 Jones Lane, Slitting Mill WITHDRAWN	11.45am	11.45am
125 Rugeley Road, Hazel Slade	12.00pm	12.00pm
Land at Wandon Cross, Rugeley	12.45pm	12.45pm
Freehold Land Adj to 44 Huntington Terrace Road, Cannock	By calling on site with Catalogue to hand	
2 New Street, Merry Hill, Wolverhampton	Contact Auctioneers	
41 Albert Road, Halesowen		
19 Smith Road, Walsall		

01543 505454
Download catalogue
www.bootandson.co.uk

LOT 1

4 JONES LANE, SLITTING MILL, WS12 2UJ

FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- Considerably improved and extended
- Four bedroomed detached house
- Located in much sought after hamlet within Cannock Chase
- Close to facilities at Rugeley, Cannock and Stafford
- Gas fired central heating, fully double glazed
- With planning permission to extend
- EPC rating D (64)

GUIDE PRICE £340,000 - £360,000

LOT 2

2 NEW STREET, MERRY HILL, WOLVERHAMPTON, WV3 7NW
FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT (Regulated Tenancy)

- Located in popular residential area
- Semi detached house
- Close to neighbourhood shops
- Producing £4,680 per annum
- EPC rating F (27)

GUIDE PRICE £88,000 - £94,000

LOT 3

41 ALBERT ROAD, HALESOWEN, B63 4SW
FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT (Assured Periodic Tenancy)

- Traditional semi detached house
- Brick render and tile construction
- Convenient for Halesowen town centre
- Producing £6,760 P.A.
- EPC rating G (19)

GUIDE PRICE £85,000 - £95,000

LOT 4

19 SMITH ROAD, WALSALL, WS2 9DJ
FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT (Assured Periodic Tenancy)

- Traditional built inner terraced house
- Brick and slate construction
- Convenient for Walsall town centre and junction 9 of M6 motorway
- Producing £5,200 per annum
- EPC rating G (20)

GUIDE PRICE £70,000 - £75,000

LOT 5

PARCEL OF FREEHOLD LAND FORMING PART OF VACANT SITE ADJ 44 HUNTINGTON TERRACE ROAD, CANNOCK
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- Roughly rectangular shaped parcel of freehold land
- With frontage of 3.5m to Huntington Terrace Road and long return depth there from of about 41m

GUIDE PRICE £5,000+

LOT 6

FREEHOLD LAND FRONTING COLLIERY ROAD, RUGELEY
10.63 acres or thereabouts
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- A good size parcel of freehold land comprising part pasture and part mixed woodland
- Situated on the land is a building of improvised construction providing storage
- Ideally located for riding out onto Cannock Chase
- Conveniently located for Rugeley, Hednesford and Cannock

GUIDE PRICE £55,000+

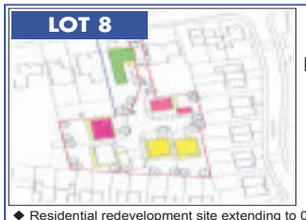
LOT 7

PARCEL OF LAND FRONTING STARTLEY LANE WITH RETURN FRONTAGE TO COLLIERY ROAD, RUGELEY
9.2 acres or thereabouts
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- Parcel of freehold land comprising part pasture land and part mixed woodland
- Having on road frontage to Startley Lane and return frontage to Colliery Road
- Ideally located for riding out onto Cannock Chase
- Conveniently located for Rugeley, Hednesford and Cannock

GUIDE PRICE £45,000+

LOT 8



LAND REAR OF 77 OLD FALLOW ROAD, CANNOCK, WS11 5QL

FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- Residential redevelopment site extending to 0.22 Ha or thereabouts
- Having O.P.P for the erection of 5 detached houses
- Planning application no: 15/0410 Cannock Chase Council

GUIDE PRICE £275,000 - £300,000

LOT 9

32 & 32A PRINCESS STREET, CHADSMOOR, CANNOCK, WS11 5JS
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- Semi detached house arranged as two self contained flats
- Good size site
- Predominantly double glazed
- Ideal buy to let
- EPC rating number 32-E(54)
- EPC rating number 32a-D(58)

GUIDE PRICE £75,000+

LOT 10

125 RUGELEY ROAD, HAZEL SLADE, WS12 0PG

FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- Detached bungalow (potential for re-development subject to planning permission)
- 2/3 bedrooms
- Detached garage
- Double glazed
- Gas central heating (No tested)
- In need of modernisation
- EPC rating E (53)

GUID EPRICE £200,000-£250,000

LOT 11

PORT LANE COTTAGE, PORT LANE, CHILLINGTON, BREWOOD, WV9 5BH

FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- A rare opportunity to acquire a detached cottage with benefit of planning permission for two storey extension to the rear
- Occupying grounds extending to approx 0.267 acres
- Set in rural position on the edge of the historic Chillington Estate with access to walks along the upper and lower avenue and shropshire union canal
- EPC rating G (1)

GUIDE PRICE £250,000+

Spacious two-bedroomed detached bungalow has feature fire surround and a cast iron fireplace

A spacious two-bedroomed detached bungalow, 30 Old Fallow Road, Cannock, is for sale through Boot & Son Estate Agents at £164,950.

It has an entrance porch, a lounge, dining kitchen, inner hall, two bedrooms, a refitted bathroom, a loft room and gardens.

In more detail the porch has an access door and stairs to the loft room, the lounge has a feature fire surround with a natural flame gas

CANNOCK £164,950

fire, the dining kitchen has a range of units, drawers and laminate working surfaces and display cabinets, a sink, access door and a condensing boiler and plumbing for an automatic washing machine.

Of the two bedrooms, bedroom one has a cast iron fireplace.

The refitted bathroom has a white suite of a low flush WC, pedestal hand basin, panelled bath with mixer taps having a shower attachment and a heated towel rail.

Outside the gardens incorporate lawns, paved pathways, a gravel driveway and a patio and the rear garden is enclosed with close board fencing with side gated access.

To book that all-important viewing contact Boot & Son, at their local branch office, on 01543 505454.

Well-presented family home with conservatory in a sought-after location on sale with no chain

This well presented family home with a spacious master bedroom and a conservatory, in Vivaldi Drive, Cannock, is for sale through Marwood Homes at £240,000 with no chain.

This is a four-bedroom detached property in the sought-after location of Heath Hayes.

It has an entrance hallway, dining room, guest WC, breakfast kitchen with a pantry and a large lounge with patio doors leading out to

CANNOCK £240,000

the spacious conservatory. To the first floor there are four bedrooms with the master having built-in triple wardrobes and an en-suite shower room. The family bathroom completes the first floor. Externally the property has a quaint enclosed walled rear garden, parking is provided by a driveway and an integral garage. A nature reserve is close by providing picturesque walks.

Viewing is essential to appreciate the property on offer.

The selling agents are expecting a great deal of interest to be shown in the sale of this gorgeous property, by would-be buyers.

For further information, or to book that all important viewing, contact Marwood Homes on 01543 500700.

flint & co
flintandco.com 01543 624400

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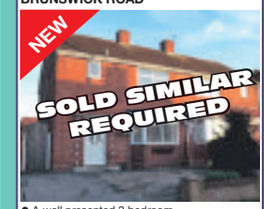
CANNOCK
WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD
NEW

- A traditional two bedroom
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, dining room
- Refited kitchen, guest WC
- Two ggod sized bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Garden to rear
- Garage and parking
- EPC rating E

£135,000

CANNOCK
BRUNSWICK ROAD
NEW


- A well presented 3 bedroom
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge
- kitchen/diner, dining room
- Three bedrooms
- Refitted family bathroom
- Garden to rear
- Driveway
- Awaiting EPC rating

£145,000

HEDNESFORD
CHAFFINCH CLOSE

- A two bedroom semi detached bungalow
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge/diner
- Refitted kitchen
- Refitted shower room
- Conservatory, carport
- Garden to rear and side
- Driveway
- Awaiting EPC rating

£169,950

CHESLYN HAY
SWAN CLOSE

- A three bedroom semi detached
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, kitchen/diner
- Conservatory
- Master bedroom with built in wardrobes
- Two further bedrooms
- Refitted family bathroom
- Garden to rear
- Driveway

£179,950

CANNOCK
ST AIDANS ROAD

- A two bedroom semi detached house
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, kitchen/diner
- Two good sized bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Garden to front
- Corner plot
- Enclosed rear garden
- Awaiting EPC rating

£124,950

HEATH HAYES
SALISBURY DRIVE

- A three bedroom detached house
- Gas central heating and doubel glazing
- Entrance hallway
- Lounge, dining room
- Kitchen, utility, guest cloakroom
- Master bedroom with ensuite
- Family bathroom
- Garage, gardens, driveway
- Awaiting EPC rating

£235,950

CANNOCK
RUMER HILL ROAD

- A spacious 3 bedroom detached
- Split level lounge/diner, Kitchen/diner
- Guest cloakroom, utility
- Sitting room and conservatory
- Family bathroom
- Garden to rear, garage, driveway
- NO CHAIN
- Awaiting EPC rating

£230,000 Offers Over

CANNOCK
REDHILL ROAD

- One Bedroom
- Central heating
- Driveway, gated acess
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Modern bathroom
- Awaiting EPC rating
- NO CHAIN

£124,995

01543 62 44 00
info@flintandco.com
www.flintandco.com
fax: 01543 62 44 01
rightmove.co.uk

Stylish modern home in a sought after location

BLOXWICH
£165,000

This family home in Wetherby Road, Turnberry, Bloxwich, lies in a sought-after cul-de-sac location and is for sale through Webbs Estate Agents at £165,000 with no chain.

Being close to all local amenities, shops and schools, its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hallway, a lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, a bathroom and a driveway.

The lounge has a feature fireplace with a gas fire, a dining room with French doors to the rear garden and a storage cupboard.

The kitchen has a window overlooking the rear, wall, base and drawer units, working surface over, an inset single drainer sink, an integral oven, hob with an extractor hood and built-in fridge. Call 01922 663399.

Link-detached in a popular and much requested area

PELSALL
£229,950 <<<

Situated in a popular and much requested location, 211a Wolverhampton Road, Pelsall, near Walsall, is a pleasantly appointed link detached three-bedroomed house.

It is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £229,950.

Having gas central heating and double glazing, it really needs to be viewed in order to be truly appreciated.

Outside to the rear of the property is a generous mature enclosed garden laid mainly to lawn, with a paved patio area and a pathway.

To the front of the property is a lawned garden and a block paved driveway, providing ample off-road parking.

The garage has a single glazed internal window into the utility space and door, with a further set of doors to the front elevation.

A stunning new home
for less than you think!*

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Rural setting, beautiful village location, within easy reach of Lichfield.

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for a 75% share

*Share prices and purchases between 40% and 75%. Monthly rent and service charges apply. Bromford will determine the most affordable share for you to purchase, which could be anywhere between 40% and 75% depending on your current income and HCA criteria. Terms and conditions apply. Prices correct at time of going to press.

To find out more call 0800 0852 499
bromfordhomes.co.uk

Bromford.

New Ka+ line-up includes crossover

By James Parker

Ford has unveiled its new Ka+ range, which includes an SUV-inspired crossover.

With a larger interior space than its predecessor, and a fresh tech update, the new range of Ford's smallest car goes on sale later this year.

Prices start from £10,795, with the Ka+ plus also available in either Studio or Zetec spec.

Lifestyles

The new Ka+ Active crossover is 23mm higher than its sister model, has a wider chassis, a larger front anti-roll bar, and comes equipped with roof rails – which Ford says supports active lifestyles. 'Unique' 15-inch alloy wheels and Canyon Ridge bronze paint are also offered.

The Ka+ Active is the second Active car to be offered by the American manufacturer, following the launch of the Fiesta Active.

Ford says the new Ka+ Active crossover "further enhances" its compact five-door model, with its price making it more accessible to the wider market.

The new range comes with a choice of powertrains, including Ford's new 1.2-litre, three-cylinder petrol engine – offering 70bhp – and, for the first time on a Ka+ model, a 94bhp 1.5-litre TDCi diesel engine.

Speaking about the inclusion of a crossover in the range, Roelant de Waard, vice president of marketing, sales and service, said: "Last year Ford sold more than 200,000 SUVs in Europe for the first time, and demand for SUV and crossover models has never been higher.

"Our new Ford Ka+ Active model will this year make the crossover affordable to even greater numbers of customers, with aspirational styling, sophisticated technologies customers would expect to see in much more expensive cars."

There's now more inside space

Other tech includes Ford's SYNC 3 communications and entertainment system via the 6.5-inch touchscreen, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, rain-sensitive wipers, auto headlamps, heated windscreen, heated front seats, climate control, and rear parking sensors.

Mr De Waard said: "Ford has sold more than 61,000 Ka+ models since we first introduced the it in late 2016, and now we're offering customers even more choice with our first Ka+ diesel engine for greater fuel-efficiency and cruising ability, and all-new petrol powertrains that are more responsive in town, all meeting the latest stringent emissions standards."

The new range of Ford's smallest car goes on sale later this year

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†Please consult dealer for full terms and conditions of Motability offers. Pictures for illustration purposes only

Jaguar creates bespoke XJ for Iron Maiden drummer

Jaguar has presented Iron Maiden drummer Nicko McBrain with a bespoke XJ at the Geneva Motor Show last week.

The custom-built car begins a series of celebrations for the model's 50th anniversary, and represents a collaboration between Nicko McBrain and the highly-skilled engineers at Jaguar Land Rover Classic Works in Coventry.

Together, the car represents more than 3,500 man hours of work, while over 4,000 parts have been replaced or refinished.

The bespoke XJ defines what the Jaguar XJ is all about

Up-to-date

A variety of upgrades have also been included to bring the XJ firmly up-to-date.

McBrain said: "This is my ultimate XJ – my third, and lovingly named 'Johnny 3'. It has been a true labour of love between Jaguar Classic and myself.

"I'm so excited by its completion and especially to be showing it at Geneva – it really is a Greatest Hits edition and to me it defines what the Jaguar XJ is all about.

"It's a credit to the craftsmanship of the Jaguar Classic team. We couldn't have timed it better, this being the 50th anniversary of XJ – my favourite of all Jaguars."

The exterior of the car features unique front and rear bumpers, while the wheel arches have been flared and re-profiled in order to fit 18-inch wire wheels.

The rear suspension has also been revised, and adjustable dampers have been included too.

A 4.2-litre in-line six-cylinder engine sits under the bonnet, while machined quad exhaust pipes sit at the rear of the car. The powerplant even features three two-inch SU carburettors from an E-Type, too.

Inside, the car benefits from modern door sealing for better noise insulation, while the seats are hand-trimmed in 'Pimento Red' leather. The car's pedals are inspired by those found on a drum kit.

Many components have been carried over from McBrain's first-ever XJ too, including the iconic leaping Jaguar bonnet mascot and the original ignition keys.

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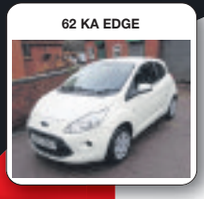
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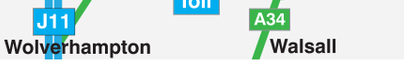

The Chronicle Thursday, March 15, 2018

Peugeot 5008 SUV has right recipe

By Carmel Stewart

At this stage in our buying lives, money matters and, with a starting price of less than £24,500 and an excellent standard spec list, the new 5008 SUV from Peugeot ticks all the fiscal boxes and a few more besides.

Added to that is the fact that it is spacious, easy to drive, comfortable and, with room enough for seven, immensely practical.

If you are not a school-runner, don't be put off by the multiple seats. Such is the sophistication of this modern design that everything fits into a neat package 4.64m in length – that's just over 15 foot in old money – and those two rearmost seats neatly and easily drop into the boot floor when not in use.

The middle row individually adjusts backwards and forwards and can incline separately. The front seats may, at first sight, be off putting to those of us of larger dimensions. The two seats, separated by a large central console, are described as 'body-hugging' but are more supportively friendly than grippingly unfriendly.

Engine choices number seven – two petrol and five diesel – with five and six speed manual transmissions depending on engine size plus an excellent automatic available as an option.

Trim levels number three – Active, Allure and GT Line – together with a top spec GT version which is uniquely powered by a 2.0litre Blue HDi 180hp engine coupled with an eight-speed automatic transmission.

On the road, behind the neat and tidy flat-topped/bottomed, fully adjustable steering wheel, the 5008 offers an excellent drive with very decent road holding and all-absorbing suspension. Although engines up to 2.0litres and 181 bhp are available, the award-winning 1.2 petrol Pure Tech Engine of the Year, with 131 bhp at its disposal, proved to be a revelation with plenty of unwavering power, smoothly delivered via the six-speed manual transmission.

It is spacious, easy to drive and comfortable

The car has a very generous standard specification

The 5008 is the third SUV to be launched by Peugeot in the past 18 months, following in the treads of the 2008 and 3008

Prices for the 5008 start at £24,495 and include a very generous standard spec with remote central locking, Bluetooth, DAB radio, three Isofix fittings, cruise control, spare wheel, all-round electric windows and rear parking sensors as well as is Apple CarPlay and Android Auto connectivity.

A step up to Allure adds Connect SOS, tinted rear windows, a 180-degree reversing camera and Tom-Tom navigation. Inevitably the price increases, in this case to £26,295.

The GT Line, which starts at £28,195, includes self-levelling headlights, sporty front design, and a smartphone charging plate (a £120 option on Active and Allure) while the GT version adds leather seats and multiway adjustable electric seats with massage function while upping the starting price to £35,695.

The new 5008 is the third SUV to be launched by Peugeot in the past 18 months, following in the tyre treads of the 2008 and the highly successful all-new 3008 which has sold more than 200,000 units globally in just a few months.

The runaway success of the Peugeot 3008 is no guarantee that the larger 5008 will be as successful but there is really no reason why it shouldn't.

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New MGs now come with at least a five-year warranty

The entire MG range now comes with its most comprehensive warranty packages ever, with all new MGs receiving at least five years of cover as standard, providing customers with peace-of-mind motoring long after they have driven out of the showroom.

The brand-new Compact-SUV, the MG ZS, leads the way with a seven year/80,000-mile manufacturer warranty.

The MG ZS has a seven-year/80,000 mile manufacturer warranty

Genuine

Transferable to any new owner before the limit is reached, the highly-competitive package also guarantees genuine replacement MG parts for the remainder of the agreement.

The rest of the MG range also benefits from enhanced warranty packages.

Announced at the start of the year, the MG3 Supermini saw its warranty extended from three years to five years/60,000 miles, offering a further incentive to purchase this stylish car.

The spacious SUV, the MG GS, is also supported by a five year/80,000 miles warranty.

By offering at least a five year warranty across the range, MG offers longer warranties on its cars than most other manufacturers, going well beyond with a seven year warranty on the ZS.

Daniel Gregorious, head of sales and marketing at MG Motor UK, said: "We believe in the quality of our cars and we always put our customers at the heart of everything we do. That's why our range now have longer warranties, proving that MG cars are not just great value for money but also reliable and well built too".

To learn more about the warranties available on the MG range, visit: mg.co.uk/owners/warranty

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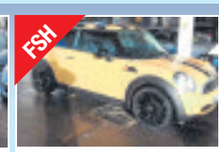

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ALL HP CLEAR ☑ LOW RATE FINANCE ☑
BAD CREDIT - CCJ'S - NO PROBLEM.
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Saturday 9.00am - 4.30pm.
Sunday Closed

To advertise in our weekly
MOTORING SECTION
Call the motoring team on
01902 313131

Funeral Directors

George Stacey Family
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
Established 1872

- A personal professional dignified service from 4th, 5th and 6th generation funeral directors
- Home arrangements
- 24 hour caring personal service
- Funerals arranged in any area

PRE PAID FUNERALS
Don't leave your loved ones the worry

30 Greenheath Road, Hednesford WS12 4AR
01543 422524
info@georgestaceyfuneralservices.co.uk
www.georgestaceyfuneralservices.co.uk

O'Malley Family Funerals
A truly personal service

"I don't know how I would have got through the last couple of weeks without your knowledge and compassion..."

A family we cared for in October 2017.

Our All-inclusive Cremation Packages

Direct	Simple	Traditional
£1250	£1800	£2500

We offer a uniquely personal service and operate an all-inclusive pricing policy with no hidden charges. This gives families peace of mind and allows us to focus on what really matters - caring for loved-ones.

Call us anytime - 01543 529813
www.omalleyfunerals.co.uk
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A.J. Sellman
Family Funeral Directors
A Special Level of Care since 1870 from a 6th Generation family business
Funerals arranged in any area • Bereavement Counselling • Stone Masonry
70 Church Street, Cannock
St. Michaels Square, Penkridge
67 Station Street, Cheslyn Hay
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Halliwell
FUNERAL SERVICE
FREE!
WITH EVERY FUNERAL ARRANGED
A PERSONALISED KEEPSAKE
AN ON-LINE MEMORIAL
For your friends and family to share memories and photos.
A FUNERAL NOTICE
Giving funeral information and directions, for you to share instantly with all your phone contacts.
We're local, we're independent and we care!

Halliwell Funeral Service
Hednesford Road, HEATH HAYES
01543 459200
halliwellfuneralservices.com

Halliwell Funeral Service
Walsall Road, GREAT WYRLEY
01922 419090
halliwellfuneralservices.com

Also at PELSALL: 01922 685999
and COSELEY: 01902 884881
Here for you - 24 hours a day!
FPA FUNERAL PLANNING AUTHORITY REGISTERED
Part of Tamworth Co-operative Society Ltd. Not connected with any other business in the area.

Deaths

BALDWIN

Mandy

Passed away peacefully after a short illness, on March 4, 2018, aged 57 years.

She will be sadly missed by her Mom, Dad, Partner, Family and Friends.

The Funeral Service will take place at Stafford Crematorium on Monday, March 19 at 12 noon.

Family flowers only please.

Donations for Walsall Manor Hospital, Ward 29 c/o:

Stacey's
Family Funeral Directors
30 Greenheath Road
Hednesford, WS12 4AR
01543 422524

CADDY

Patricia Ann

(Pat)

Peacefully passed away on February 27, 2018 aged 75 years, of Cheswardine.

Dear Wife of the late Arnold, much loved Mom of Lorraine, Andrea and the late Gary and a loving Nan, Sister and Auntie.

Funeral Service, 4pm on Monday, March 19. 2018 at Telford Crematorium.

Flowers acceptable or donations if so desired for Whitchurch Community Hospital for which purpose a collection box will be provided at the Crematorium.

Inquiries please to

J R Williams
Funeral Directors
Tech Market Drayton 01630 654190
or Great Bolas 01952 510123

EDWARDS

John

Of Heath Hayes

Passed away in hospital on the March 8, 2018, aged 82 years.

Beloved Husband of June and a very dear Friend, will be sadly missed by all.

All Funeral details from Funeral Directors.

The funeral care has been entrusted to

MAGUIRE
Family Funeral Directors
Brindley House
75 Broadhurst Green
Hednesford
01543 879866

KILFORD

John

Sadly passed away with his two Daughters by his side at Stafford Hospital, on Monday, March 5, 2018, aged 84 years.

The Funeral will take place on Tuesday, March 27, 2018, at Stafford Crematorium, 3pm.

All inquiries to
CO-OPERATIVE
FUNERAL SERVICE
49, Park Road,
Cannock.
01543 572644.

MORRIS

Madeline

Of Hednesford.

Passed away on March 3, 2018.

Funeral Service at Stafford Crematorium, on Tuesday, March 20, at 3.30pm.

Further inquiries to

Stacey's
Family Funeral Directors
30 Greenheath Road
Hednesford, WS12 4AR
01543 422524

PRITCHARD

Eric James

Passed away on February 22, 2018, aged 90 years.

He was much loved and respected and will be dearly missed by his Family and Friends.

Service will be held at Bushbury Crematorium, East Chapel on Tuesday, March 20 at 12.15pm.

Family flowers only please.

Donations to Stroke Association c/o Funeral Directors

CO-OPERATIVE
FUNERAL SERVICE
49 Park Road,
Cannock.
Telephone 01543 572644.

SCOTT

Julie

nee Stanley

Formerly of Chadsmoor.

Passed away suddenly on March 6, 2018, aged 51 years.

Will be greatly missed by Husband Andrew, Parents Jean and Albert, Family and Friends.

Inquiries to

Stacey's
Family Funeral Directors
30 Greenheath Road
Hednesford, WS12 4AR
01543 422524

THOMPSON

William

Bill

Of Jacobs Hall Lane, Landywood.

Passed away on 26 February, 2018 aged 96 years, now reunited with beloved Wife Audrey.

Greatly missed by all Family and Friends.

Funeral Service at St. Marks Church, Great Wyrley on Monday 26 March at 10.00am.

All welcome to join the Family at Harrisons Club, Wharwell Lane, after the burial service.

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENT

CUSTOMER

INFORMATION

Please note that the deadline for our weekly Cannock Chronicle is 4pm every Friday, for the following weeks edition.

This is subject to change Bank Holidays.

Eg (4pm Thursday)

Cannock Reception will be closing at 4.30pm on a Friday.

In Memoriam

GALVIN

William Cairns

One year, March 15.

Memories of you will never leave us.

Love always, Gladys and Family

NORMAN

Colin

March 15, 2016.

Two years have gone by but love for you Colin will never die.

Your loving Wife Marg and Family.

SAUNDERS

Stephen

Bruno

Two Years March 14.

Never a day do I forget you, in my heart your always near.

My heart still aches with sadness, as ends this second year.

Still loved. Still terribly missed.

Love Ann

Dad

There's a bridge of happy memories from here to Heaven above.

I know that we share that bridge Dad. It's called the bridge of love.

Miss you.

Bev, Mark, Ruth, Tony, and Cobie,

Acknowledgements

DAINTY

Florence Dulcie

The Family wishes to thank everyone for their kind wishes and attending Dulcie's Funeral at St. Lukes Church, Cannock on February 28, and donations of £247 to Dementia UK.

Special thanks to David Gethin for conducting the Service, the Ladies of the Church for assisting at the reception afterwards, Staff at Ashcroft Hollow Nursing Home and Funeral Directors A.J. Sellman for their professional help and support.

HALL

Joseph

I would like to thank everyone for attending Joe's Funeral on February 26, 2018.

Thank you to Families that travelled a long way and to his old footballers. He would of been really proud.

Thank you for all your cards and donations, which totalled at £475. This will be divided between Katherine house and the Air Ambulance.

A big thank you to Halliwell Funeral Directors in Heath Hayes and Louise Goode who read the celebration of Joe's life, this in itself was beautiful.

Thank you to the ladies at the belt road club for helping with his Wake. Thank you to the District Nurses and the Ambulance Services.

A final thank you to all my Family, I could not do without you.

HOLLIS

Betty

The Family would like to thank everyone for their kind donations to the Macular Society totalling £200.

POWELL

Cyril and Ivor

Pearl and Family would like you all to know that Cyril's donations raised £140 for Birmingham Dogs Home. Ivor's for Chemotherapy was £302.

God bless. Thank you.

XXX

RIMEIKIS

Norma

Late Wife of Bruno Rimeikis, Son John and Family would like to thank everyone for all your kind donations.

A total of £320 was raised to be equally shared between Midlands Air Ambulance and The British Heart Foundation.

Family
ANNOUNCEMENTS

HERE TO SHARE YOUR TODAYS, TOMORROWS AND YESTERDAYS

Whether you're celebrating a special occasion or remembering a loved one - we're here to help.
Just call us on 01902 317878
Our lines are open between 8.30am and 5.30pm Monday to Friday.
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DAILY DEADLINES
• Before 4.00pm Monday to Friday for the next day's edition.
• Before 4.30pm Friday for Monday.
• Subject to change Bank Holidays

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TABBENOR

Millicent

(Milly)

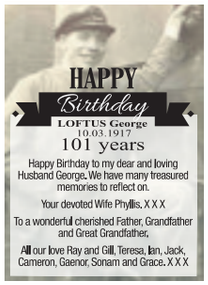
Jane, Paul, Nick, Diane, Nadine and their Families wish to express their sincere thanks to all Relatives, Friends and Neighbours for cards and letters received at this sad time. For your attendance at the Funeral Service and donations amounting to £401.60 which has been sent to the PDSA and Smile Train.

Special thanks go the Doctors, Nurses and Staff at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for their care and attention. Thank you to the Vicar who conducted the Service, to Sellmans of Cannock and the Bearers who handled everything with great dignity.

Thank you also to The Moat House at Acton Trussell for the delicious food following the Service.

Thank you all.

Birthdays



1 Family

Elderly & Disabled

BATH CHAIR Lift, never used, suit elderly person was £400 new, sell £300. 0121 557 6825.

MOBILITY SCOOTER

TGA Breeze 8mph Scooter, robust, fast, comfortable model, suspension, 20 stone capacity Free delivery.

£495 ono

07718 089131

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

Toys

DOLLS HOUSE Emporium, Wentworth Court, part built, was £269 sell £60 with some furniture. 01902 827074 / 07900 780910.

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL
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ClassifiedAds

2 Leisure Time

Bikes

JACKSON-HATELEY CYCLES
www.jacksonhateleycycles.co.uk
MASSIVE SALE NOW ON
Book your cycle now for Summer at sale price!
Get your fantastic bargain now
All cycles built and guaranteed with a 24 hour repair service
HATELEY'S
Simply the best
Ring Dave on
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458 Stafford Road, Oxley, Wolverhampton

Car Boot Sales

BEST WEDNESDAY BOOTSALE
10am Boat Lane, Muckley Corner, Lichfield WS14 0BU
07890 267 041

BEST SUNDAY BOOTSALE
Back at Cocksparrow Lane, Huntington, Cannock, WS12 4PB
Sellers £5
07890 267 041

Caravans/ Motorhomes

STERLING ELITE SEARCHER

2008, twin axle, 4-berth, fixed bed, very good condition.

£9,500

07831 325174.

WESTFIELD 350 AIR AWNING, 3 months old, bought brand new £850, sell £700. 0121 532 4110.

holidays

Caravan Holidays

SEA SIDE SOMERSET HOLIDAY caravans to let, all overlook the sea. Half price OAP offer. 01984631781 www.helwellbay.com

TOWYN N.WALES, Caravans to let, small site, good rates, all facilities 01745 334897 or 07766 306230.

Caravan Parks

NEW & USED STATIC CARAVANS for sale on award winning Country Holiday Park on the Staffordshire / Shropshire border. For details call 01902 851 302 www.oaklandholidaypark.co.uk

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PAIGNTON
The Kingswinford
February - March offers
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ONLY £99
Room only available
FAMILY ROOMS AVAILABLE
CHILD DISCOUNTS
All rooms en suite
100 yards to beach and pier
Contractors Welcome
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Travel Abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED to check with any Advertisers that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

Self Catering Holidays

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Self Catering Holiday Apartments
Disabled Facilities
Pet Friendly
01278 794111
www.GoSomerset.co.uk

Yorkshire

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Country Cottages / Suites in Wensleydale
" Weeks from £209 per couple
" Weekends just £99 per couple
Families Welcome
Walk in scenic countryside by waterfalls or visit historic market towns with friendly Inns
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email: rita@meadowholidays.com
www.meadowholidays.com

mind, body & soul

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Full body massage 30 mins £22,
40 mins £27, 1 hour £37
SHOWER FACILITIES
Call: 01902 782960

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IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
To sell items upto £250.
Online at
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what's on

Antique Fairs

VINTAGE ANTIQUE / Collectables Fair, Coven Memorial Hall WV9 5DL, Sunday 18 March, 9-3. Karen 01384 277373 / 07938 123040.

Book Fair

BOOK FAIR Kinver Community Centre, DY7 6ER, inc postcards. **Sunday 18th March**. Est 1979. Waverley. Next Antique Fair APR 1ST. Home made refreshments. 0121 550 4381.

3 Home & Services

Antiques

Louis Taylor
Fine Art Auctioneers & Valuers
Antique valuations first Wednesday of every month, 10am - 2pm
Ancient High House Museum, Stafford, ST16 2JA
01782 638100

Furniture

katharine house hospice
Furniture not sold, why not donate it?
Reg charity number: 1011712
We can turn your quality used furniture into 1st class care for patients at Katharine House
Call us now on 01543 466885
for details or to arrange a FREE collection

In Your Garden

C B SHEDS & FENCING
We supply & fit. Free quotes.
Call: 01922 720270
We also supply sleepers and decking

LARGE PLASTIC garden storage box, circular tables plastic/wooden, 5 plastic chairs, garden recliner, £120 will split. 07494 570709.

SLABS 450mm x 450mm RIVEN FACED, only £1.87 inc. VAT. Ranton Building Supplies: 01543 276006.

TWO PIECES of artifical turf, one 5m x 4m approx, second 7ft x 7ft approx, £150 both pieces. 01922 622767.

Items For Sale

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That the Business Advertisements(Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

ASH RECLAMATION new and used building materials, upvc doors and windows 01543 453222.

CORRUGATED GALVANISED Sheets. New, £8 can deliver. Also box profile and PVC/polycarb. David Broxton on 07834 489558.

✔ CASH PAID ✔
£300+ PER OUNCE
FOR 9 CARAT GOLD.
ANY AMOUNT COLLECTED!
Lady Buyer
gold coins, pre - 47 silver coins, watches, costume jewellery, porcelain, any oriental items, old brass items, any silver items, War medals military etc.
HOUSE CLEARANCES!
✔ Call: 01922 495066 or 07971 783206 ✔

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

Items Wanted

CASH PAID NOW!
WANTED TOOLS
Hand Tools, Anything considered
01543 452 491
07539 340307

A BEST CASH PRICE PAID
for antiques, vintage furniture, leather-winged arm chairs & chesterfield setees.
01902 454144 or
0121 5263375

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

WANTED
VINTAGE TOYS
Star Wars, He-Man, Ghost Busters, Ninja Turtles, Corgi or Dinky.
All vintage toys considered.
Good prices paid.
Unleash the cash in your loft.
Call Tony on 07812 903338.

ANTIQUES WANTED
Furniture, Clocks, China, Medals, Coins, Old wind-up Wrist and Pocket Watches Paintings, Gold/Silver/Costume Jewellery
CHASE ANTIQUES
(Over 40 Years Trading)
01543 572367 07831 818024

Loans

READERS ARE REMINDED that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

Photography & Camcorders

NIKON ZOOM LENSE 80/400mm, as new. £425 ono. 07812 739177 / 01922 611002.

t.v. / home entertainment

Service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST Any TV Repairs. Digital aerials, sky, CCTV cameras. TV wall mounts and TV set ups. 07850 330251.

CLASSIFIEDS FOR YOU!

"TV Link are really pleased with their response from their Classified Campaign"

Bill - TV Link

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

specialists at your service

Aerials

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99
01902 858191 • 01384 429166
01543 439095 • 01922 716029

A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST Digital aerials, CCTV cameras, TV wall mount fitted. 07850 330251.

CLASSIFIEDS FOR YOU!

"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

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PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £249
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

Appliance Repairs

A SAME DAY REPAIR - Cookers Autos Fridges Vacs and Micros. Call 07900 578897 / 07801 746853.

Building Services

Davies & Son Builders
Over 35 years exp
All aspects of building work
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.
All work guaranteed
Spring Offers! • Free Quotes
07837 994465 / 01902 579592

Building Supplies

RECLAIMED BRICKS, Tiles, Slates, Oakbeams, Flooring, York Stone. Cawarden 01889 574066. sales@cawardenreclaim.co.uk

Carpet Fitters

A CARPETS & VINYLS supplied or just fitted, quality samples brought to your home, no job too small, free quotes call Mark 01543 820598 / 07941 619694.

Double Glazing Repairs

S.P.S replace misted glass, locks, hinges, windows, doors, guaranteed. OAP discount. 07983 704889

Fencing

CLASSIFIEDS FOR YOU!

"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."
Michael-
Portway Fencing

For great business results call
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Brought to you by Express & Star

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards £695
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
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SUPPLY AND FITTING SPECIALISTS
FREE QUOTES
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All Garden work and maintenance, Fencing, Tree Cutting, Turfing and much more
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(T&Cs Apply)
Call Claire Smith: 01902 319661
claire.smith@expressandstar.co.uk

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OAKTREE TREE SERVICES
Covers all aspects of tree surgery, grass cutting and hedges. Garden clearances, turfing and fencing
07427 060382

Landywood Tree & Landscaping Services
All garden work, tree felling/lopping, pruning, hedges trimmed, turf, patios, fencing, block-paving etc.
www.landywoodlandscaping.co.uk
01922 898 710 / 07973 177 976

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READERS ARE ADVISED To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered. It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

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BLAYDON PROPERTY SERVICES
No Job Too Small
Free Quotes
GUTTERS & FASCIAS / GUTTER CLEANING.
ALL GARDEN WORK UNDERTAKEN
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Professional family run business
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07794 912844

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THE KITCHEN FITTER
- Over 20 years' experience in kitchen fitting & project managing.
- Specialist in fitting all retail kitchens.
- Very competitive price.
- Quick quotes over the phone can be given if preferred.
- Supply now available!

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or 01543 373 233

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LADY PAINTER & DECORATOR City and guild qualified. local, reliable, affordable. 07916 399490.

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30 years experience.
Free quotes. All work guaranteed
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Over 30 Years Experience
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For all your plumbing needs.
30 years experience
24 HOUR CALL OUT, NO FEE!
Call Trevor on 07791 319397
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PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN No job too small or large. Call Will for a free quote on: 07521 411108.

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KT HOUSE REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

KC REMOVALS We beat any quote, full or part loads, all areas. Anything considered. Call on 07867 862227.

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RE- UPHOLSTERING OF SOFA'S, DINING FURNITURE, CARAVANS, CAR RETRIMS AND MORE.
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4 Pets & Animals

Guns & Dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

Equestrian Corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information, this is a legal requirement.

Pets Corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

BABY BUDGIE hand tame with cage and all accessories, £65 ono. 07716 847443.

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL
01902 317878
ClassifiedAds

5 Business & Farming

Business Opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

6 Property

Accommodation To Let

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

MODERN 4-BED DETACHED HOUSE
private drive, garage, unfurnished.
The Oaks, Stafford.
£795pcm.
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WALSALL rooms to let, £70 p/w inc all bills. DSS accepted. 07825 581676.

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NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

Properties Wanted

We buy houses
Sell your house fast
- avoid repossession
- behind on payments
- job relocation
- unwanted inheritance
What more -
we buy in any condition
No estate agent fees
We pay all your legal fees
ACT NOW !
Contact us on :
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You agree the price, we buy the house...
• NO AGENTS FEES • COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
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01384 500 500
30 yrs
www.black-countryhomes.co.uk * subject to terms

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UP TO **£25,000** CASH ADVANCE NOW (in 24hrs)
We can buy your house in 2 days
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Lines open 24 hours a day 7 days a week
Terms applicable

Yes! HOMEBUYERS
THE EASY WAY TO SELL YOUR HOUSE
We Buy Houses For Cash
Free Valuation? Yes! No Fees? Yes! Any Location? Yes!
Fast Sale? Yes! Any House? Yes! Any Condition? Yes!
Get your FREE, instant cash offer today!
The Property Ombudsman
Call 01543 547 807
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7 Jobs

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LABOURER REQUIRED
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Littleton Drive, Huntington,Cannock
Full time position - Monday to Friday.
Experience preferred but not essential

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or
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LICHFIELD
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Experienced Full Time Day Care Assistant
36.25 Hours
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22.5 Hours mainly weekends.
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The roles, which involve shift working including evenings and weekends, would suit someone who is qualified to at least NQJ accredited senior journalist or equivalent with a passion for news.

Anyone interested in applying should email
Editor's secretary Karen Baker at karen.baker@expressandstar.co.uk.
Please indicate in your application if you have a driving licence.

Closing date for applications: 6th April, 2018

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8 Motoring

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MoT'd.
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Cars Under £1500

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9 Local Information

Public Notices

PUBLIC & LEGAL NOTICES

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(remember to include a name/ contact number for confirmation of receipt)

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (AS AMENDED)
ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991
DIVERSION OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC
RAWNSLEY ROAD, CANNOCK

NOTICE is hereby given that the Staffordshire County Council on 13th March 2018 made an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in that length of Rawnsley Road in Cannock between its junctions with Stringers Hill and Rugeley Road unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the works; or unless the vehicle requires access to premises on the length of road or is being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes.

Pedestrian access will be maintained.

Alternative routes for traffic will be signed on site. For more information, visit: https://roadworks.org?tm=104844483

The order will come into operation on 20th March 2018 and the said works will commence on or as near as practicable to that date. It is anticipated that the works will be completed on the same day.

The Order will remain in force for a period of 18 months, or until the manhole repair works, which it is proposed to carry out on or near the road have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

John Tradewell, Director for Strategy, Governance & Change,
No. 2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford. ST16 2DH

Ref: 4106410; Enquiries: Customer Contact Centre Tel: 0300 111 8000
www.staffordshire.gov.uk/trafficregulationorders http://roadworks.org

Date: 15th March 2018

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (AS AMENDED)
ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991
DIVERSION OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC
HIGH GREEN, CANNOCK

NOTICE is hereby given that the Staffordshire County Council intend not less than seven days from the date of this Notice to make an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in that length of High Green in Cannock between its junctions with Stafford Road and B5012 Park Road unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the works. Access to frontages will be available but through access will not be permitted. Access for pedestrians will remain open at all times.

An alternative route for traffic is available via B5012 Park Road, Stafford Road, and The Green. For more information, visit: https://roadworks.org?tm=105038630.

The order will come into operation on 8 April 2018 and the said works will commence on or as near as practicable to that date and will take place as follows:

Sunday 8 April 2018 between the hours of 08:00 and 17:00

Sunday 15 April 2018 between the hours of 08:00 and 17:00.

It is anticipated that the works will be completed by 15 April 2018.

The Order will remain in force for a period of 18 months, or until the new water connections to The Whitehouse works undertaken by South Staffordshire Water, which it is proposed to carry out on or near the road have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

John Tradewell, Director for Strategy, Governance & Change,
No. 2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford. ST16 2DH

Ref: 4103678 Enquiries: South Staffordshire Water Tel: 01922 638282
www.staffordshire.gov.uk/trafficregulationorders http://roadworks.org

Date: 15 March 2018

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (AS AMENDED)
ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991
DIVERSION OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC
A460 MAIN ROAD, RUGELEY (SOUTHBOUND)

NOTICE is hereby given that the Staffordshire County Council intend not less than seven days from the date of this Notice to make an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in a southerly direction on that length of A460 Main Road in Rugeley between its junctions with Redbrook Lane and Garden Drive unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the works. There will be no other access available for the duration of the works.

An alternative route for traffic is available and will be signed on site. For more information, visit: https://roadworks.org?tm=104844094

The order will come into operation on 3rd April 2018 and the said works will commence on or as near as practicable to that date. It is anticipated that the works will be completed by 20th April 2018.

The Order will remain in force for a period of 18 months, or until the Storm sewer connection and S278 works, which it is proposed to carry out on or near the road have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

John Tradewell, Director for Strategy, Governance & Change,
No. 2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford. ST16 2DH

Ref: 4084926 Enquiries: Customer Contact Centre Tel: 0300 111 8000
www.staffordshire.gov.uk/trafficregulationorders http://roadworks.org

Date: 15th March 2018

PUBLIC NOTICE

Cannock Chase COUNCIL

NOTICE OF COUNCIL TAX 2018-19
LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT, 1992

Notice is hereby given under the provisions of Section 38 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, that the Cannock Chase District Council, acting as billing authority, did on 21st February 2018, in accordance with Section 30 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, set for the chargeable year beginning on 1st April 2018, the following amounts for each category of dwelling as shown below.

Valuation Bands								
In the parish of;	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Brereton & Ravenhill	1,148.29	1,339.69	1,531.06	1,722.45	2,105.21	2,487.98	2,870.74	3,444.90
Bridgtown	1,134.81	1,323.96	1,513.09	1,702.23	2,080.50	2,458.78	2,837.04	3,404.46
Brindley Heath	1,138.70	1,328.50	1,518.27	1,708.06	2,087.62	2,467.20	2,846.76	3,416.12
Cannock Wood	1,144.29	1,335.02	1,525.73	1,716.45	2,097.88	2,479.32	2,860.74	3,432.90
Heath Hayes & Wimblebury	1,138.51	1,328.28	1,518.02	1,707.78	2,087.28	2,466.79	2,846.29	3,415.56
Norton Canes	1,152.46	1,344.55	1,536.62	1,728.70	2,112.85	2,497.01	2,881.16	3,457.40
Rugeley	1,164.81	1,358.96	1,553.09	1,747.23	2,135.50	2,523.78	2,912.04	3,494.46
Hednesford	1,144.17	1,334.88	1,525.57	1,716.27	2,097.66	2,479.06	2,860.44	3,432.54
All Other Parts of the Area	1,126.36	1,314.10	1,501.82	1,689.55	2,065.00	2,440.46	2,815.91	3,379.10

DATED this 15th day of March 2018.

Tony McGovern, Managing Director
Cannock Chase District Council, Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock, WS11 1BG

Tel: **01543 462621** **www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk**

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Cannock Ceilings Insulation and Drywall Limited trading as Cannock CID of Unit 1 Hollies Business Park, Hollies Park Road, Cannock, Staffs WS11 1DB is applying for a licence to use Unit 1 Hollies Business Park, Hollies Park Road, Cannock, Staffs WS11 1DB as an operating centre for 2 goods vehicles and 0 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

Dated: March 16, 2018

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Abbey Foods Ltd WS11of Church Farm, Church Lane, Hatherton, Cannock, Staffordshire, WS11 1RR is applying to change an existing licence as follows: To keep and extra 0 goods vehicles and 4 trailers at the operating centre at Church Farm, Church Lane, Hatherton, Cannock, Staffordshire, WS11 1RR. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

Dated: March 16, 2018

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Boxer in polished debut performance

DEBUTANT Damien Kiwior caught the eye on fight night at Walsall Town Hall. Alex Florence, Tividale's Ryan 'Stewart' Davies and Danny Ball of Kingswinford were all victorious on the 'Class of 2018' card.

Despite a number of cancellations, organisers BCB Promotions made sure the show went on. Ledbury's Florence, a 21-year-old super lightweight, put Czech Republic's Jan Korec to the sword early, referee Kevin Parker bringing proceedings to an end in the first round.

Davies recorded a first career stoppage, in four rounds over Birmingham's Myles Vale, while super welterweight Ball recorded a 39-38 victory after being taken the distance by seasoned Bolton fighter Chris Jenkinson.

Topping the bill was Poland's decorated amateur Kiwior, making his eagerly-awaited professional debut. He looked comfortable throughout his four round contest with Bulgaria's Anatoli Lyubenov and recorded a 40-36 victory. A moment's reflection, and a collection, was held in memory of Reagan Asbury who died outside the venue in October.

Princess Royal unveils uni's fitness facility

A NEW Sport & Fitness Club at the University of Birmingham has been officially unveiled by HRH the Princess Royal. She unveiled a plaque and delivered a speech as part of a formal opening ceremony.

The University of Birmingham's Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir David Eastwood welcomed the Princess to the new facility before she was introduced to Chancellor Lord Bilimoria of Chelsea, Pro-Chancellor Ed Smith, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Myra Nimmo and Director of Sport Zena Wooldridge OBE.

The royal visitor met students, athletes and staff and was given a tour of the facility, led by Zena Wooldridge, with visits to the 50m swimming pool, fitness studios, squash courts, the indoor multi-purpose arena and sports hall, climbing wall and performance centre.

The Sport & Fitness Club opened its doors to students, staff and the community in May 2017, providing a new gateway to the University's iconic Edgbaston campus.

Gavin gutted as plug pulled on title bout

BIRMINGHAM boxer Frankie Gavin's hopes of a world title fight later this month have been left on the canvas by the loss of a major sponsor.

The show at the Genting Arena continues with a strong line-up including four title bouts. But Gavin said he was devastated at losing the chance to fight for a world title. He was due to face African Bethuel Ushona for the vacant IBO Welterweight World title on Saturday March 24.

But the team behind his big night – billed as 'Now or Never' – have been forced to pull the headline fight after a major sponsor failed to materialise. The show goes on with a full undercard promoted by Black Country Boxing.

Gavin said: "I am absolutely gutted. To have the opportunity to win a belt and decent purse snatched away from me has left me devastated."

Kevin Baker, of BWI Promotions who were hosting Gavin's fight, said the team was hopeful of finding another option for him in the spring. Tickets are still available at theticketfactory.com but anyone who has bought a ticket for Gavin can obtain a refund by contacting their point of purchase.

Black Country Rangers players celebrate a goal

First team boss Wayne Spicer and, inset, the club's new badge

Growing team flies the flag for Black Country

BLACK Country Rangers are on a mission to become a major player on the non-league scene.

While the action on the pitch may have been hampered by the recent wintry conditions, there has been plenty going on off the field at the ambitious West Midlands League club.

Rangers run one side at the moment, in the Premier Division, but are now expanding.

They have agreed a merger with Sunday League side Black Country Fusion which will result in five adults teams – including a ladies' side – while the club are in the process of setting up an academy.

For good measure, to complete the re-brand job, they have a new badge and will be known as Black Country Football Club.

Black Country Rangers will still exist as the first team but will be under the umbrella of BCFC.

First team boss Wayne Spicer provided the initial spark for the ambitious plans.

Challenge

Spicer joined the club in a coaching capacity at the start of the season before taking on the assistant manager's role and then moving into the hot-seat when former boss Lewis Jones stepped down.

He quickly identified the need to expand and now the club's hard-working board have taken up the challenge.

"I just felt that if we want to be sustainable and develop things in the future then we need to be a club," said Spicer.

"At the minute we are not a club we are just one team, Black Country Rangers.

"So we have decided to put a board together and add other teams to create one club.

"We are merging with Black Country Fusion and we are starting an academy for six to 12-year-olds and looking at adding other youth teams.

"We are looking to get other coaches on board and are going to be holding trials for different age groups.

"If we are going to be an aspiring semi-professional team that wants to go as high as possible, then we need youngsters coming through. We realise there is a massive gap between Sunday league and the level we play at, what we have to try to do is bridge that gap.

"Hopefully we can set up a reserve side in the future to help bridge the gap to the first team but top of the hit list at the moment is to get the academy up and running.

"This is something I was keen to drive forward and credit to everyone at the club because they have been working hard to get things off the ground.

"Pete Whitehouse, who is the head of the academy, has been working really hard and the chairman, Paul Garner, has been behind everything and really supportive.

"The merger with Black Country Fusion has resulted in Skye Stewart coming on board and she has been absolutely fantastic in all aspects.

"It will help build a more sustainable club instead of one team, as well as having 10 brains working on it instead of one."

Spicer added: "I'm very confident of how the merger will go, our main goal is to become one of the biggest clubs in the Black Country, playing football the right way."

Joining forces with Fusion has resulted in Skye Stewart become vice-chair of the club.

And Stewart is aiming high. She said: "This benefits both clubs, we're being ambitious and the merger can drive us forward instead of plodding along where we are. We want to stamp our mark on the Black Country. We want the teams to do well, become well known in the region and grow a future for children in the Black Country. It'll help with our sustainability," she added. "It's the start of our future and we want to take it as far as we can and be the next big club in the Black Country."

Chairman Garner is excited at what the future holds. He said: "This is something as a club we have been looking to do for a long time, we just needed to make sure we had the right people to meet this new challenge head on.

"Non-league football is about people sharing a vision and common goal and we feel bringing Skye on board, who has so much passion for the game and desire to improve on something successful she has already built, will only propel the club to greater heights.

"We are excited about the future and any new challenges that may lie ahead."

Promotion

While the future is looking bright for the club, the present is not too shabby either.

Spicer has wasted little time making his mark in only his second taste of management, having led West Bromwich United to promotion from Division Two and League Cup glory last season.

Rangers are unbeaten in 13 games since he took on the lead role and their eye-catching brand of football has even been featured on Soccer AM, who showed a clip of a stunning team goal scored by Kieron Clarke against Malvern Town.

A disappointing start to the season put paid to any realistic chance of challenging for the title, but a top four finish is still a possibility.

"We didn't have a great start but we have had a strong middle,"said Spicer.

"The best thing for me is that the boys have put their faith in me and bought into my philosophy. Credit to the boys for that.

"We have set high standards and Graham Ward (assistant boss) has added his knowledge and experience to the mix which will only help push us forward as a club."

SPORTING FEATURE

By Liam Keen

"We just needed to make sure we had the right people to meet this new challenge head on."

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Sport

Expanding team flying the Black Country flag

Page 59

First defeat of year in a tough battle

Shrewsbury 29 Burntwood 17

BURNTWOOD suffered their first league defeat of the year to a well-drilled Shrewsbury outfit in a hard-fought game.

The Shrewsbury defence held firm for 15 minutes before the ball was moved right by the Burntwood three-quarters. Lloyd D'unet committed his opposite wing before feeding Fisher to score wide out on the right. Aaron D'unet converted to make it 7-0.

The remainder of the half saw handling mistakes by both sides. However, Shrewsbury's speedy right wing crossed the line to score a converted try.

Almost from the restart, Burntwood were awarded a penalty which was converted by Aaron D'unet.

Shrewsbury had their best period just before the half-time whistle and forced a gap on the left for their wing to touch down in the corner for an unconverted try.

The second half belonged to Shrewsbury. With the wind at their backs their forwards combined to extend their lead to 22-10 through two unconverted tries. The lead was extended further when a failed penalty kick by Shrewsbury was not cleared and from the turnover ball Shrewsbury scored under the posts for a converted try.

Two separate yellow cards were shown by the referee to Shrewsbury players. A weakened Shrewsbury pack were driven back over their line for a try by Graham Shelley. Aaron D'unet dropped goaled the conversion with minutes left.

Cannock return from trip north empty-handed

CANNOCK Hockey M1s were beaten 2-1 at Preston but there was better news for Cannock M4s, who beat Worcester 2-1 thanks to strikes from Jamie Daniels and Dom Hoare either side of Worcester's only goal.

In other games, Cannock M5s beat Old Wulfs 5-1 despite being under pressure for the first 20 minutes of the game. Tom Hyde (2), Callum McGarrie, Machin and Don Clark were on target for Cannock.

Elsewhere, Cannock Ladies Firsts lost by the odd goal in three to Oxford Hawks, and Cannock L2s lost 3-2 against Birmingham University.

Cannock L3s shared six goals with WATS after showing some excellent teamwork skills.

Cannock L4s drew their game with WATS 1-1 after going behind in the first half. Cannock were rewarded with a goal from Jemma Bowen, and, with 15 minutes left, had the majority of the possession but were unable to find a winner.

Cannock L5s were 2-1 winners in a tremendous game against Bloxwich. Georgia Lloyd and Mandy McColl got Cannock's goals.

Wigleys on track for season opener

Kurt Wigley. *Picture: RBPS Photography*

Matt Wigley. *Picture: RBPS Photography*

THE Wigley twins from Hednesford are primed and raring to go for the opening British Superbike round after a 'great' few days testing in Spain.

Kurt, who will be back to compete in the British Supersport class following an inconsistent season last year, said he was able to make some major improvements to his bike, while for Matt, the tests were even more vital as he continued to make his way back from a horror crash suffered last year. He missed most of the 2017 campaign, but is set to move from the National Superstock 1000 class to the newly-formed British GP2 class.

Kurt said: "Overall, the week as a whole was great for the team. It was Matt's first return to the track following his major incident last year. I worked with him on and off the track to bring him up to speed faster. It was great to be on track together after the year apart."

Matt, who broke his back in a 100mph crash and fractured two vertebrae at Knockhill, Scotland, in June, added: "I felt we had a great test in Spain.

"It was a good opportunity to get some solid track time ready for the opening round. I believe there is a lot more to come from myself. However, this gave me a good gauge on where I was in comparison to Kurt."

The new British GP2 class will be officially launched for the first time this year following two years of evaluation. The prototype machines, of a similar specification to those seen at world and European championship level in the Moto2 category, have been formally accepted into the British championship for 2018.

The British Supersport and British GP2 categories will race side-by-side but will be separately classified. There will also be a final background classification to see who is the best of the best.

Round one of the British Superbikes series takes place at Donington Park, March 31 to April 2.

JOYLESS PITMEN SUNK BY MARINE

Marine 2 Hednesford Town 0

HEDNESFORD fell to a disappointing defeat against lowly Marine as their winless run stretched to four matches in the Evo-Stik Premier.

Although Hednesford goalkeeper James Wren had a couple of comfortable shots to stop early on, there was little in the way of clear-cut chances in the opening exchanges.

Meanwhile, at the other end, Joey Butlin saw a looping header land on the Marine net in the 10th minute before Ben Bailey stopped a quick counter-attack as the home side tried to break.

In the 17th minute, some good football from Marine saw the ball find its way to James Short, but his low effort rippled the side netting.

The home side took the lead in the 41st minute when, following the award of a debatable free-kick, the ball was whipped in from the right by Short with no-one getting a touch.

Hednesford began the second half on the front foot and Callam Mendez-Jones perhaps should have done better when picked out by James Lawrie but he blazed over.

The best move of the match arrived in the 50th minute as Matt Curley picked out Tom Thorley and his ball in found Jordan Graham but he didn't connect properly when well placed.

Despite some increased pressure it was the home side who doubled their lead just before the hour mark as a Danny Mitchley cross was palmed out by Wren but Michael Brewster was on hand to tap home into an unguarded net.

The two sides meet again on Saturday as Hednesford make the return trip to Merseyside.

Emerald Isle success for Leo

Leo Manifold, aged 12, with dad Simon

A CANNOCK youngster came back with a medal from the world's largest martial arts competition.

On a weekend disrupted by severe weather conditions, Leo Manifold, aged 12, managed to make it over to Dublin for the Irish Open, and brought back a bronze medal in the -42k advanced category.

A pupil at the Hart School, Rugeley, Leo fights for EHMAA and also fought in the +47 and -47k advanced categories, reaching the quarter-final stage in each.

EHMAA's Emil Herzberg said: "It was a chaotic weekend, with so many having to cancel plans due to so many cancelled flights and awful weather conditions and not knowing if we would ever get over to Dublin.

"Leo and his family flew out to Dublin on Sunday morning after several cancelled flights, just in the nick of time before the fighting categories begun that same morning.

"Leo can be very proud of his results as I think we all are from the academy."

To get involved with the academy contact Emil on 07875074446 or via find EHMAA on Facebook.

Groves belts up for date at sports bar

BOXER George Groves plans to bringing his world titles with him when he comes to Cannock next week.

Groves retained his WBA 'super' world crown and added the IBO belt after a super middleweight showdown with Chris Eubank Jr at the Manchester Arena on February 17.

'Saint George', aged 29, also reached the final of the World Boxing Series and will take on fellow Englishman Callum Smith to decide the Muhammad Ali Trophy.

He'll be at the Premier Suite at Bar Sport in Cannock on Thursday March 22 for a sporting dinner show, in a rescheduled visit from November.

The top table will be introduced by popular boxing pundit and double author Steve Bunce.

The 55-year-old, who lives in Lichfield, is a regular presence on TV with BoxNation, BT Sport and BBC Sport, along with writing for magazine Boxing Monthly and national newspapers.

Posing the question to Groves during his speech will be Richie Woodhall, a former world champion in his interview subject's division.

Tickets for the night with Groves are on sale from £35, which include a four-course meal and photograph opportunities. There will also be entertainment from a comedian.

For more information and to book places for the show, get in touch with Bar Sport directly by calling 01543 572 092.

Jazmin jumps in with Games song

THE Voice star and Commonwealth silver medallist Jazmin Sawyers will support Team England in the Commonwealth Games – by releasing a new version of the games' official anthem.

Jazmin, from Staffordshire, will team up with reigning champion of Britain's Got Talent, Tokio Myers to record the Official Anthem of Commonwealth Games England, Jerusalem.

The 23-year-old, daughter of former Chief Constable of Staffordshire Jane Sawyers, will heading to the Gold Coast with Team England in advance of the official opening on April 4. She will compete in the long jump from April 11.

★★★

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CANNOCK CHASE HIGH SCHOOL

ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

RATED 'GOOD' BY OFSTED, FEBRUARY 2018

INTEGRITY | TEAMWORK | RESPONSIBILITY | EXCELLENCE | RESILIENCE

CELEBRATING TEAM CCHS' LATEST OFSTED REPORT

"Pupils are fully engaged in their learning and behaviour is exemplary" OFSTED February 2018

Every day is an open day at CCHS - Places still available

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CANNOCK CHASE HIGH SCHOOL

ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

"Pupils' behaviour in lessons is exemplary. Their attitudes to work are consistently positive. They listen well to teachers and work hard in lessons. They show great enthusiasm for the curriculum offered to them." Ofsted, February 2018

Ofsted Good Provider

Welcome to the top performing school in Cannock for progress in both 2016 and 2017

Cannock Chase High school is a vibrant and ambitious learning community with a relentless focus on the highest standards of academic achievement, personal development and equality of opportunity. In everything we do, we are dedicated to reaching our school goal - 'Achievement for All'.

Our school has a positive ethos, with strong pastoral and academic guidance and a real emphasis on learning. As a school we have a real focus on improving our collective best, team Cannock Chase High School, and our individual best. All students are aware of their potential and that achievement is without limit if they combine effort, hard work and dedication to being the best in everything they do. We believe that it is a happy, safe and enjoyable place to be with a purposeful atmosphere, and that the learning environment we provide allows students to grow and develop academically, socially and personally into responsible, caring and confident young people. We are a traditional school where old fashioned values of discipline, courtesy and good manners support our drive for academic success for every child. We aim to achieve the very best results from every single student academically and prepare them for the world of work.

Everybody involved in our school, from Governors through to Year 7 students, have the highest expectations and work very hard to achieve these outcomes. I am immensely proud to work with so many supportive Governors, outstanding staff and delightful young people. It is a privilege to be Headteacher at Cannock Chase High School.

Iain Turnbull
Headteacher

INTEGRITY | TEAMWORK | RESPONSIBILITY | EXCELLENCE | RESILIENCE

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CANNOCK CHASE HIGH SCHOOL

A C H I E V E M E N T F O R A L L

"The school is proud of its inclusive ethos, where every pupil is valued and cared for. Pupils say that bullying is rare. Pupils have every confidence in the adults within the school who, they know, deal swiftly and effectively if help or support is needed." Ofsted, February 2018

Ofsted Good Provider

VISION

Our school is a vibrant and ambitious learning community with a relentless focus on the highest standards of academic achievement, personal development and equality of opportunity.

We achieve this vision through the operation of routines and procedures, an unwavering focus on results, and by offering the very best teaching and support. Students learn, behave and are well mannered. Teachers teach with skill and rigour, showing courtesy. Staff and students enjoy what they do together.

VALUES

Underpinning everything we do at Cannock Chase High School are our values that we expect all members of our community to demonstrate in all they do:

INTEGRITY: Doing the right thing, all the time and respecting each other.
TEAMWORK: Working together to improve our collective best, as well as our individual best.
RESPONSIBILITY: Taking responsibility for our actions.
EXCELLENCE: Being the best we can be in all we do.
RESILIENCE: Overcoming challenges, remaining focused and working hard.

In our achievement-oriented culture, all students work hard and aspire to be the best that they can be. However, we want our students to have a great life, not just a top job and/or a place at a great university. Therefore, we are deeply committed to opening the hearts and minds of our young people in every way.

SIXTH FORM

We are delighted with our best ever Sixth Form results in the history of the school.

100% of our students achieved A*-E grades at A level and 100% of our Year 13 cohort progressed to higher/further education, apprenticeships or employment.

Our students' progress on academic courses is above the national average and their progress on vocational courses is significantly higher than the national average.

INTEGRITY | TEAMWORK | RESPONSIBILITY | EXCELLENCE | RESILIENCE

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CANNOCK CHASE HIGH SCHOOL

ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

Ofsted Good Provider

RATED 'GOOD' BY OFSTED, FEBRUARY 2018

"The headteacher leads the school very effectively. He has a clear vision, based on a strongly held set of values and belief in a 'team' approach. He is focused on raising aspiration and wants every pupil to succeed in their chosen field. His energy, ambition and commitment are infectious and, as a result, he enjoys the wholehearted support of pupils, staff, parents and carers. Many refer to the 'team' culture that has been successfully established."

"Teachers have high expectations of pupils and develop very positive relationships. Teachers check pupils' understanding effectively and provide support and intervention when pupils fall behind. Pupils speak very highly of the support that is given, and appreciate the encouragement and belief that teachers show in them."

"Leadership in the sixth form is highly effective. Leaders are ambitious to see the sixth form continue to improve...Outcomes in academic subjects have improved and are now above the national. Leaders are ambitious and committed to academic progress rising further."

"Pupils are well prepared for their future. Last year, all pupils who left Year 11 went on to employment, education or training."

INTEGRITY | TEAMWORK | RESPONSIBILITY | EXCELLENCE | RESILIENCE

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